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MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

WORCESTER COUNTY

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR 1888.

Worcester, Mass.
CHARLES HAMILTON, PRINTER,
311 MAIN STREET.
1888.

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Died

In Worcester, December 16th, A. D. 1887, Francis Henshaw Dewey, aged 66 years, 5 months, 21 days.

In Memoriam.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, specially convened on Monday, December 19th, in the Hall of Flora, the chair was taken by *First Vice-President* Stephen Salisbury, who addressed those present, as follows :

The Worcester County Horticultural Society has met with a great loss in the death of its President, Hon. Francis H. Dewey. One of the original members, a President of the Society at various times, in all covering a period of ten years; a lifelong friend of horticulture and a constant contributor to the exhibitions of the Society; Judge Dewey remained nearly alone of the early band of associates who gave the necessary impulse which has resulted in establishing this most useful enterprise upon its present sound and secure basis. All of us remember the active co-operation afforded when the Society was in its youth by each and every member; when it was felt to be a special and important duty to attend all meetings, to contribute specimens to all exhibitions and to write elaborate reports when connected with the various committees. Judge Dewey was among the most faithful from the first; and he brought to the Society a very considerable acquaintance with botany and a genuine love and knowledge of flowers and fruits, a

knowledge which he had not acquired by inspection alone, but from practical experience. But beyond the constant interest shown by Judge Dewey in our objects, his uniform urbanity and unfailing consideration for each and all of us, and the disposition he always manifested to unite conflicting interests, and to be just and fair under all circumstances, endeared him most closely to this Society, and will cause his memory to be preserved as one of its foremost promoters.

Vice-President Henry L. Parker next arose, saying :

This event has a special sadness and significance to us from the fact that it is the first instance in the history of the Society where a President has been removed by death, while still an incumbent of that office ; and also from the fact that up to within so short a period he was so actively interested in the Society's work. It seems but yesterday since we saw him an interested and delighted spectator at the Chrysanthemum display, the last exhibition of the year. Judge Dewey was one of our first citizens. No man among us was more universally loved and respected. No man has held more positions of influence and trust or filled them more acceptably. But this is not the place or the occasion to speak of his great abilities at the bar, upon the bench, as a financier, or to enter upon any general eulogy upon the many sterling virtues of his well-rounded life and character ; that will be done elsewhere and upon other occasions. We wish to remember him specially with reference to his connection with this Society. I have been asked to prepare some memorial to be placed upon our records, and I submit the following for your consideration :

The Worcester County Horticultural Society, through its Board of Trustees, desires to place upon its records

this memorial of the Hon. Francis H. Dewey, its late President and *ex-officio* president of this board.

Judge Dewey was one of the first incorporators of this society and a lifelong, active member. During the most, if not the entire, existence of the society, he was a member of its board of trustees.

For many years past at each annual meeting of the society he has been unaimously elected its presiding officer, and in that capacity has rendered most valuable service.

With all the cares of an extremely busy life and the pressing demands upon his time, he has rarely been absent from our meetings. Oftentimes they have been stormy sessions, when personal strife and the enmities engendered by a sharp competition waxed warm. On all these occasions he has presided with an unruffled temper ; his rulings were prompt and impartial, while his gentle, kindly bearing seldom failed to bring peace to the troubled waters.

He was a frequent contributor of fruit and flowers, with a special fondness for floriculture, and at the weekly displays of the society he was a constant visitor, showing a special interest in the floral collections, and with a genial smile and pleasant word for all whom he chanced to meet.

To an unusual degree did he possess the confidence and love of our members, and his sudden demise has all the force of a personal bereavement.

Trustee James Draper said that he was one of the youngest members of the Society and during the past four years has been a judge on fruits, etc. There had been times in this work when he needed instruction in order to fairly solve a problem

while in the discharge of his duty as judge at the exhibitions. He had found Hon. Francis H. Dewey his friend and helper at all times, and the lamented judge always kept an eye out for the minute details of the society's work. Mr. Draper made a motion that a committee of six, of whom the chair shall be one, be appointed to attend the funeral. Carried; and the chair appointed Messrs. Edward W. Lincoln, Henry L. Parker, Charles E. Brooks, O. B. Hadwen and Dr. George E. Francis.*

Secretary Edward Winslow Lincoln said that he could not let this occasion pass without paying a tribute of affection to the memory of his lifelong associate and cherished friend:

For the first time in the history of the Worcester County Horticultural Society are its members convened to mourn the loss of their President, dying in full possession of office.

Upon the third day of March, A. D. 1842, the signature of Governor John Davis was affixed to "An act to incorporate the Worcester County Horticultural Society." In the month of May thereafter, our lamented President took up his residence in this city; and from that time his name and fame became a legitimate part of our corporate and active history. On our roll of members the name of Francis H. Dewey appears seventh under his initial letter; and the inference is fair that he was among the foremost to appreciate the need of the new association and make it a reality.

When required, his best services were ever at our command. He acted upon committees of award with cheerfulness, though it is a species of drudgery from

* Mr. Draper had an imperative engagement out of town.

which many shrink. His legal experience was freely proffered in our behalf, and but recently became of avail to our exceeding benefit. His time was spared ungrudgingly, if his obligations as Trustee exacted. And of how fully, completely and gladly he officiated as President, there should be no occasion for recital to this audience. He had accepted election at your instance; thereafter for him nothing remained but the conscientious discharge of every duty appertaining to the office.

This Society has never lacked members whose skill in pomology had achieved a fame that far transcended the limits of the Commonwealth. President Dewey partook of their interest; yet his chief attention was engrossed by floriculture. In that his enthusiasm became almost feminine in its passion. How often have I watched his progress through our Hall when he supposed himself unnoticed, after his attention had been solicited to some particular specimen of fruit! With what certainty, if almost unconsciously, he would draw back to admire or criticise the Rose or Clematis from which he had been temporarily diverted!

The Rose, with its petals and fragrance long since faded to dust. The gracious presence awaits burial; but as spring revives, shall not the Rose renew its bud and bloom? From the analogy of nature we derive Hope, which may not be superfluous to those of ample Faith.

"And the evening and the morning were the first day." In the morning, upon that fairest of all December days, he was gathering the fruits of diligence whereof he had sown the seed. At noon I met him, and was literally astonished at the expression of his countenance. The light that shone there might well excite comment from adepts in psychology, in view of the subsequent fatality. His cordiality was marked;

and he playfully invited a comparison of ages, remarking his surprise when he found the tale slightly to his advantage. Possibly his memory was more tenacious than my own; recalling how we dwelt together under the same roof when we first essayed our respective families.

In the evening—and he was prone upon that bed wherefrom was to be no awakening this side of the celestial Eden. And in that goodly garden we horticulturists should be content to leave him, in the congenial fellowship of Wilder, Moore and Lovell, who preceded him but so recently.

On motion of George E. Francis, *V. P.*, it was unanimously voted that the proceedings be extended upon the records, and that a copy be engrossed and transmitted to the family of our deceased President.

At the Annual Meeting of the Worcester County Horticultural Society holden in the Hall of Flora on Wednesday, November 7th, A. D. 1888, *Secretary* Lincoln stated that he had received a letter which he would ask leave to read:

"WORCESTER, Nov. 6th, 1888.

"EDWARD W. LINCOLN, Esq.,

"*Secretary of the Worcester County Horticultural Society.*

"Dear Sir:

"We send you herewith a Portrait of the late Francis H. Dewey, in accordance with his expressed wish that the same should be presented to

the Worcester County Horticultural Society, of which he was so long the President, and in whose welfare he took so deep an interest.

"We also inclose the amount of the bequest made by him to the Society, in the following terms:—

"'I give to the Worcester County Horticultural Society the sum of One Thousand Dollars, the same to be invested and the income thereof to be applied to the purchase of books for its library.'

"Yours respectfully,

"FRANCIS H. DEWEY,
"JOHN C. DEWEY,
"GEORGE T. DEWEY,

"Executors of the will of Francis H. Dewey."

Mr. Lincoln added that it had occurred to him, upon receipt of the communication, that a recognition of it, however official, would acquire grace from being timely. He had therefore taken it upon himself to prepare some Resolutions that seemed to him appropriate and which he would submit for their acceptance :—

Resolved : By the Worcester County Horticultural Society, upon this first meeting since the decease of their late President, Francis Henshaw Dewey, that its members would place upon record their deep sense of the loss sustained by them, in common with the general interests of Horticulture throughout the County.

Resolved : That we adopt and reiterate as our own the expressions of mournful sensibility uttered by our Trustees at the very time of the sad event.

Resolved : That we recognize with especial gratitude the new evidence of his continuous interest in the Society, in the provision by himself of his portrait, to be suspended in our Hall in the goodly company of his life-long associates.

Resolved : That in accepting his generous bequest of a sum of money, we desire to show our thankfulness in the most appropriate way ; and that we therefore solemnly pledge the faith of the Society to "invest the same and to apply the income thereof to the purchase of books for our library."

Resolved : That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of our late President ; and that the resolutions, together with the record of the action and expressions of sentiment by the Trustees, at the time of his decease, be published in the next issue of the Transactions of the Society.

On motion of Salisbury, *V. P., Voted :* to adopt the Resolutions, and furthermore to instruct the Finance Committee to keep the principal of the sum intact ; to expend only the income from it ; and that the bequest be known as the

Francis H. Dewey Fund.

A Record : Attest :

EDWARD WINSLOW LINCOLN,

Secretary.

WORCESTER COUNTY
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A. D. 1888.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

To the Members of the

WORCESTER COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:

THE death of PRESIDENT DEWEY, occurring suddenly and when it did, precluded the possibility of calling the Society together to take appropriate action prior to his burial. There was barely time to convene the Trustees. The proceedings of that Board are extended at length upon its Records and were published in full by the contemporary press. Your cordial concurrence in their tenor and tone is not doubted. You are however advised of what your Trustees could not know, that the interest in this Society which was so consistently manifested throughout his whole life did not end with his mortal existence. The fund that he bequeathed for the increase of your Library will supply a lasting and visible memorial of his concern for your permanent, best welfare.

"As for man his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth."

"For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."

But if we can never again lay eyes upon our late President; if the cheery recognition is missing, and the prompt decision fails; yet, thanks to the sympathy of those to whom he was nearest and dearest, his almost speaking likeness shall grace our walls so long as this Hall may endure. For so much let us be

duly thankful! For the rest, we may as well leave it with the inscrutable Providence that decrees and limits human existence.

Our Hall is in fair condition and has returned an average revenue during the past year. But members who wish a larger appropriation for premiums, at our Exhibitions must bear in mind that depreciation of improved real estate increases in proportion to its age, and that we have no right to expect an exception in our own case. The mastic upon our front wall has fallen off in patches; and, at best, presents but a shabby appearance. Located upon one of our most important streets, where all public processions must necessarily parade, neither our pecuniary interest nor the reputation of the Society, will suffer us to let Horticultural Hall waste into discredit. It now has a supreme recommendation in its convenient site, its facility of access from the street, and yet more in the entire immunity from danger, in the event of senseless panic. But others may attempt to rival, if they cannot hope to surpass, such signal advantages. And, therefore it is the decided conviction of your Committee on Finance, that every dollar which can be spared should go to constitute a Repairs-Fund, from which, in due time, may be defrayed the cost of such alterations and improvements as shall be found indispensable. The ordinary work of the Society would thus go on without interruption; while the saving annually, if small in itself, would in the long run, increase to a sum adequate for the specific purpose.

The taxes upon our stores, wherefrom are derived the means by which we "advance the Science and encourage and improve the 'Practice of Horticulture,'" are rapidly attaining the magnitude of former years. Our revenue from an investment in Real Estate is all that enables us to carry out the purposes for which we were chartered. It might be expedient when any alterations are found to be inevitable, to construct a pious gymnasium in the basement of our building, with a flying trapeze for devout development. If a holy retreat might be added, for which our attic would be well adapted, wherein to indulge in solemn meditation upon the conundrum, "Were There Mosquitoes in Eden?" condition and

theory would accord; the austere virtue of assessors relaxing and exact and equal justice, for once, being done.

Our Exhibitions were held, throughout the year, in substantial accordance with the Schedule. Occasionally an important display was deferred, to meet the imperative necessities of the case — notably thus in the matter of the annual Rose Show. No season is remembered by the veterans on your Committee of Arrangements, wherein an assignment by averages (if it may be so described?) was of such little worth. A flower or fruit was invited upon a specified day; since, for three years out of four one, if not both, had been in perfection at that time. It was of no sort of use, A. D. 1888; everything that grew to assurance of petal, or pulp being seized with a fit of procrastination, and putting in its appearance some two weeks after its appointed date. Long experience, however, had convinced your Committee of the futility of recasting the schedule to meet temporary exigencies; the attempt to do which usually results in making a bad matter worse.

The two opening Exhibitions, in March and April successively, were of signal excellence and greeted, as they deserved, by admiring throngs. The prospect for a display of Flowers, or aught else animate or inanimate, looked forlorn enough as that fearful blizzard was piling up its fathomless drifts. Nevertheless Holden and Leicester came on time, and Whitinsville (is not the 'ville' surplusage?) once more manifested, under difficulties, that interest to which this Society was ever deeply indebted. No such physical obstacles confronted us in April; and the Exhibition, for that month, was without drawback of any kind. But thereafter your *Secretary* feels that results justified his former contention. That there is not enough from which to achieve a creditable display, each week, commencing in the middle of May, as we did A. D. 1888. True,—artfully disposed, something may be effected with the refuse of parlor or conservatory; nor is it denied that parsneps can be exhumed that are well worth eating. But the truth is we are or ought to be planting at that particular juncture; and a Horticultural Society should be the last to require its members to gather where they have not strewn. There

is a time for all things; and the closest students of Nature are keen to learn and frank to confess that nothing is to be gained by an effort to hurry her moods.

The continuous, and now almost entire, withdrawal of Professional Florists from active coöperation in the work of our Society, has been a marked feature in the Horticultural season just closed. Whose is the loss and whose the gain! it might be impossible to apportion, precisely. It is certain that all honorable efforts have been exhausted to suit professionals, in our schedules; the framing of which, for years, has been largely entrusted to them. They have also been signally honored by the almost exclusive choice of judges from their ranks; — at the risk, not always nor wholly visionary, of having the floral awards determined upon lines almost strictly technical. Yet all has been of no permanent avail; one dropping off after another without so much as saying — by your leave? or even after making such an exceptional display as should depress the remaining members with a conviction of hopeless inferiority.

Your *Secretary* can advance nothing in adequate explanation. Should it be said that fault was found with the judgments of award, it may be replied that the time never was when the grumbler did not exist; and that those at least, whose own decisions had been unreasonably challenged, would not be so craven as to desert their successors — fellow-sufferers in injustice. Is it not more probable that the Professional Florist is gradually forced to recognize, what has been manifest to your *Secretary*, for long,— the absolute incompatibility between the highest success in his occupation and the attainment of equal prominence at Horticultural Exhibitions! His profession, and that comprises his entire plant,— is devoted primarily to the gain of a livelihood for himself, and family. Our Exhibitions aim at perfection. But he must make merchandise of his best specimens, if wanted, for shall not my lady have the nosegay upon which her fancy is set! Granted,— that he grows profusely,— by acres, if you please. Still, the more land under cultivation, in Floriculture particularly,— the less time can he call his own, if he would not salute insect-foes, weeds, or witch-grass, as his conceded masters.

In opposition to this view of the matter, may be adduced the very general display, by Professional Florists, at that grotesque horticultural *simulacrum*, offered annually, as a dissolving view, at the best paying point in New England. But this fact does not, of itself, adequately meet the contention. The Florist may have gone there upon the speculation that lures the country clergyman through the slums of New York. Ah! exclaimed Madame, la Marquise, clasping her hands pathetically, "*if they only knew how delicious is a little sin!*" But what must have been the surprise to those precisians who were wont to insist, in these Halls, that each flower must be judged by certain fixed rules of excellence, to find themselves adrift upon a shoreless sea where Vegetables floated in a special scow; Floriculture paddled a canoe of its own; and Horticulture, as expounded by wreckers to whom the saints never imparted their faith, shrivelled until it was reduced to a mere equivalent and synonym for Pomology! And yet this Society, — associate with Moore and Wilder, as of Ripley and Earle, — was urged to volunteer — *particeps criminis* — in such an outrage upon the fixed landmarks and established classification of an immemorial Science!

When this Society was organized, there were in Worcester, none other than amateur florists. They were found amply able to show all the flowers requisite for a first-class exhibition and a fair allowance of that human nature which appears to be inseparable from such occasions. And they were shown by those zealous women without hope of reward; since, for years, the net returns from exhibitions went to form the nucleus of the fund that, augmented by the bequest of Daniel Waldo, subsequently enabled the erection of this Hall. Preferences were officially expressed and the palm of decided preëminence assigned by appropriate committees; but no one was made suddenly richer by gains from voluntary contributions to our tables.

Curiously enough, while the above was written, and as if to illustrate with what confidence Horticulture may rely upon the amateur now, as of yore; a number of *Garden and Forest* comes to hand in which occurs the following suggestive statement:

"The extent to which Horticulture is pursued for pleasure merely, in Belgium, is shown by the membership list of the

Ghent Horticultural Society — 'Harmonie.' In the city of Ghent alone it counts 2,000 members, and of them only 30 are professional gardeners."

The *Renaissance*, as it were, of Herbaceous Perennials, and the increasing appreciation of their beauty, should encourage us in the present and stimulate to greater effort in the future. They are the flowers of any who choose. Hardy and handsome,— what more can be desired? Whether you look to plant or shrub,— you may stock a park or crowd a garden. An absurd fancy for bedding shams, conceived in the cupidity of professional gardening, relegated them for a while into a neglect that had almost become oblivion. Returning sense and a better taste recalls them to our service, and lo! Forsythia, Syringa, Althæa, Hydrangea, in their succession; and Rose, Iris, Pæony, Lily, Phlox, in such gorgeous and multiform glory as almost to dazzle while it attracts. Be it ever our policy, as it was that of the founders, to take learners by the hand, helping their first feeble steps. If these Exhibitions, so generously thrown open to a public that taxes us upon the slender resources whereby alone they are sustained, are worth anything save as a convenient way of distributing net income, it is because of the object-teaching that arouses interest and challenges rivalry. The curious of either sex see what others have done. Cannot they do as well? The thought haunts them; and sooner, or later, if such thought was not wholly aimless, the result will be conspicuous in these Halls.

So long as we allow ourselves to be content with the award and distribution of money — premiums, as our highest ultimate aim and purpose, perhaps, we achieve a measurable success. The quality of the Fruit and Vegetables for sale in the markets of this city, contrasted with those of yore upon which they show such a marked advance, is the actual evidence of what has been done under the kindly auspices of this Society. Shall such limited achievement continue to be our restricted object? A. D. 1892, but four short years hence, a Half-Century will have elapsed since this Society was incorporated,

"For the purpose of advancing the Science and encouraging and improving the Practice of Horticulture."

By those who are spared to see that day shall it be said that the God Terminus, or even *Pallida Mors*, called a halt to Flora, Ceres, and Pomona! Or shall not that date rather be commemorated by the new departure which, recognizing the vigorous state of the corporation, shall prepare to assume the obligations resulting therefrom? What mean those Lectures on Botany, continued with so little pecuniary support, but encouraged by a large and zealous attendance? Why has this Horticultural Society naught to do with them, or their like! And why, indifferent or neglectful, can we not perceive the adverse comment to which we subject ourselves through our penuriousness or sloth! I offer no specific recommendation. But in what manner can we better crown our fifty years of active and useful existence, than by the inauguration of some method or plan whereby our facilities and resources shall be rendered tributary to that endeavor, more or less sharply defined, that aims to establish here in Worcester, upon broad foundations, a complete and thorough University!

Your *Secretary*, as he has never suffered you to forget, believes in striking every obvious and possible shackle from inter-national, as well as inter-state, trade. Commerce thrives in the enjoyment of vigorous life, within the wide confines of the Republic. The car that carries a freight of boots or shoes—perhaps bunting! to Illinois, returning with a load of corn, or wheat-flour. If our Farmers can grow maize in economical rivalry with their brethren of the Sucker State, as some contend and claim to demonstrate, how much more should they be able to maintain their standing, when their competitors are handicapped by the cost of transportation across a trackless ocean! At present, Apples command a small price—the fruit being plentiful, its juice—sinful. Why not make unto ourselves friends of the Mammon of Unrighteousness! Why not entice John Bull to partake of the iniquity! thereby filling our pockets by a sort of vicarious atonement;—the scape-*goat* being the *bull* aforesaid! It may be that some fingers still smart from contact with that fire. Other some may dread to make the test for themselves. But that Duncan C. Pell built up for himself a profitable trade, in a single variety of

American Apples; that he established the character of that variety upon such a plane that, throughout all England, the name of Newtown Pippin is a synonym for excellence; and that the Newtown Pippin itself is inferior to numerous kinds that suggest themselves, at first thought, to an American Pomologist; are not these all facts of indubitable verity,—that should be pregnant with suggestion in this very crown and plentitude of an exuberant fruiting? In this year of grace, 1888, Worcester County has more Apples than can be cared for at home; however many may be eaten, dried, or ground in wicked mills. England lacks in precisely similar measure. She never did,—probably could not, grow our varieties, whose excellence she is beginning to appreciate; and of such as approve themselves congenial to her climate and soil the imminent deficiency is greater than usual. Commerce, however, implies reciprocity. There must be a return cargo, otherwise the voyage will be profitless if it does not involve a certain loss. In times not so far remote Coal was free from import and was brought over in ballast. But Massachusetts has been whipped to hunt in the same political leash with Pennsylvania, and, in each division of the net spoils of their chase, usually gets the option of a buzzard,—her mate reserving the turkey. No axiom can be plainer than that if we decline to obtain what we want, by barter, we shall have to pay for it with cash. Neither, individuals, nor a community, can endure an incessant, unremunerative drain upon their resources. Live and let live! is the essence of true Christianity, for which "Root hog, or die!" can furnish but a poor substitute. The Home Market is close at hand. Are there not, within hearing, Pomologists who wish that its area and capacity were not quite so restricted? That an extra wagon load should not cause a glut!

The development of the international trade in Fruit, of late years, has been noteworthy. Leaving out of all account the Banana, with which few would care to dispense, let us confine ourselves to the commerce in Apples. Said the *Anglo American Times*, awhile since:—

"The business of exporting Apples is increasing. Three years ago, 220,000 barrels were shipped from New York; in 1885 302,000 barrels, and last year 349,000 barrels."

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Reviewing the apple-shipping season, not so long ago, A. C. Lombard's Sons sum up, as follows:—

"This shows that the total exports from the United States and Canada for 1887–8, were 608,588 barrels as against 811,410 barrels for 1886–7. The shipments from Boston amounted to 164,268 barrels, against 306,693 for the previous season. About one-half of the shipments were made to Liverpool."

And being at Liverpool, the seaport of Western England, the condition that confronts the Pomologists of Worcester County is why an irrational theory should be allowed to prevent the barter of our fruit for some of those superb woollens that our "Infant Industries" refuse to produce until they are weaned per force!

Of course, it cannot be necessary to remind this Society that exports will be larger upon the bearing year; and that 1887–8 could not be included within that category, which will account for the temporary falling-off in shipments. The Home Market for the produce of our orchards we possess now; and like the Wheat-growers, we find it insufficient. We cannot sell our Apples to Pennsylvania; but yet we cannot do without Coal! Yet Coal is a cash article, like a receipt for Taxes. Do not some in this audience feel the chafing from that shackle, forged under the stress of a military necessity, and perpetuated at the behest of a political alliance? If you can contrive to enlarge your market so as to get 25 or 50 cents more per barrel, for your fruit; in the name of common sense what should keep the shrewd Yankee from pocketing such gain! His own labor with that of his family *is* Home Industry. Yet that industry is at every turn, subjected to burdens grievous to be borne; which, in their very levy, are an imposition upon himself, of all men. By the sweat of his brow is commerce built up, whether on land, or water; and as he prospers, so should our ships vex the seas. Of all men the Terræculturist is bound to insist upon the widest market. "By their fruits ye shall know them!" might, under rational legislation, be stenciled, in Covent Garden, upon the Apple barrels of Eames, Rice, or Wyman.

But even for supplying the Home Market only, sound judgment and fair precaution will never come amiss. The man who can reserve his fruit until there is a demand, will get the profit withheld from him who forces the market. Hence the benefit of cold storage; which, after all, is but the application, upon a larger scale, of the methods by which Newton and Ripley were wont to keep until Spring, and then exhibit, to your surprise, those Pears of perfection. A review of the market, April 3, 1887, covering the close of an abundant season, will clearly illustrate what may come to those who can and do wait:—

"For Apples the market continues firm, with the supply lighter than usual at this time of the year. The fact of the matter is that Apples are well cleared up; and it is safe to say that all concerned, from the grower to the buyer of round lots to sell again, have made at least a fair profit on Apples this year. The market is firm at $3.25 @ $3.50 for good State of Maine Baldwins; while choice have been sold at higher prices. There is some Massachusetts and Western fruit offered at less figures. It is noted that there are fewer Russets offering this season, than usual; and good bright fruit of this class would bring good prices. There is but little doing in the way of exporting Apples, in fact, there are but few to export. The receipts for the week were 2,092 barrels; last year, 5,563 barrels."

As to the prospects for the export trade in Apples, the present season, the circular of Woodhall & Co., of Liverpool, recites that,—

"After a late cold Spring, followed by a miserable Summer, returns are only what might be expected, and are the most unfavorable received for many years. Of 146 reports giving the crop as under average, with many it means that there are none at all, especially in the most important sections. The weather continues most unseasonable; and it is probable that when the time for gathering arrives, present estimates must be again reduced, and the quality will be found most inferior. Advices from the continent are also unfavorable, except some small sections of France, which will not affect our market.

Under these circumstances it will be seen that England will be prepared to take large quantities of foreign apples, and should the American and Canadian crops (which are the must appreciated) be good, there will be an immense demand at satisfactory prices."

The columns of the *Chronicle* and *Garden*, lying upon our Library tables, bear concurrent testimony to an unpropitious season and a sadly deficient yield from the English orchards.

Soft-witted enthusiasm should find no place in the consideration of this matter. Actual facts, clearly determined and plainly stated, are its only proper solution. Competition presses closely in every market abroad or at home; and the writer has never forgotten that the orchards of Nova Scotia maintain a most formidable rivalry with our own. It is but a few weeks since a most intelligent correspondent of the Sunday *Spy* thus wrote and predicted, with some degree of extravagance perhaps, but yet upon a solid basis of fact:

"The Annapolis and Gaspereau valleys contain about 600 square miles of cultivable land. At the present time one-tenth of this area, or nearly 40,000 acres, is planted with apple trees. Almost a half-million barrels of Gravenstein, Baldwin, King of Tompkins, Nonpareil, Russets, Ribston Pippins, and other varieties of apples are now annually yielded and exported. Over three-fourths of this area is yet in young trees. From 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 barrels of apples will certainly be raised annually in these two valleys within ten years' time. They are proven to be the finest and hardiest varieties in the world, and the demand is never met. In the fall, American buyers fill the region, purchasing 1,000-barrel lots. Experience has proven that the European markets are just beginning to know this fruit region, and, as every barrel which can now be secured is taken there, the competition between American and English buyers will always insure the Annapolis valley apple raisers from $3 to $5 per barrel in gold. The method of English shipment is highly interesting and is additional good luck to Nova Scotia apple farmers. He has only to pack his apples carefully, stencil and brand his name upon it, mark it "John Doe," or "John Roe, London," and deliver it at any depot of the valley railway. If he sends 100 or 1,000 in this way he has no further trouble or anxiety. His apples go direct to Halifax. There steamship agents, who are practically agents of London buyers, care for them. In three weeks' time the apple grower receives by mail exchange on London for the apples he has left at the station platform, and the price is the highest paid in the world. These conditions are giving a great impetus to apple culture in this wonderful valley. About 40 trees are planted to the acre, and at maturity yield from three to seven

barrels of apples, for which never less than $3, and often more than $5, per barrel is secured. The whole valley is a vast orchard, and every farmer is rich, or rapidly getting rich.

* * * * * * *

"In wandering through the valley an interesting reflection came to me, and I wondered whether it might be so to others. That was that wherever apples grow a kindly, sturdy and progressive people are ever to be found. Think it over, and the idea grows upon one. Great houses, greater barns, fine stock, ample competence, large provision for all seasons and needs, sturdy ways, sensible thrift, genial neighborings, and all that dear procession of country-side life that has vigor and cheer, with Autumn's noble housings and stores and Winter's large and generous delights, marshal the thought in memory's bravest trappings."

Are not "great houses, greater barns, fine stock, sturdy ways, genial neighborhoods" to be found not alone in the valley of the Gasperean; but as well along the intervales of Half-Way River, the Blackstone and the Nashua? Hath Rome indeed "lost her breed of noble bloods?" If so,—how largely may the blame be attributed to that celibacy which exacts yearly increase from flock and herd, but withholds its own tribute to the primal law lest haply, "his children should be like olive-plants round about his table!" The modern gospel at too many a Yankee Farmstead is, alas! not "happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them;" but can a vicarious procreation be maintained by virtue of a pedigree accredited to this Jersey heifer—that Southdown ram!

Yet in this, as in all other matters of earthly concern, the fittest shall surely survive. And, that the victory may be our own, needs but a tithe of that energy which is expended without grumbling, in every other branch of Terræculture. The tree must not be suffered to exhaust its vitality by a crop of ten or twelve barrels in full maturity. The fruit must be thinned; and although the number of specimens may be diminished, the yield will be ample, while the returns from it are proportionately greater. You may say that this implies hard work! but how much profit did you ever derive from laziness? You can not harvest your rye while swinging in a hammock. If a cloud threatens, you hurry and get it under cover, even though it should

chance to be Sunday on Olean, or Mountain, *Streets*. But when the caterpillar weaves his web, you vow that you will remove it at once. You don't, however, for it is only an apple tree; nor do you interrupt the cankerworm* in his work of devastation. You will plough, harrow, cultivate, even hand-hoe maize; and all for a crop of grain that, computing your own labor, it is questionable if you could not buy cheaper. But you grudge any of that toil in your Orchard, which is neglected as usual. The vigor of the branches may be sapped by sprouts: its trunks enveloped with moss or scale—a sure harbor for insects,—its fecundity may be as excessive as the specimens are knurly and poor; but—was not such ever your habit? And do you not hold your own at the Agricultural Exhibitions?—where easy-going judges are "to your faults a little blind."

I would not weary your good nature; but I cannot be patient with that sort of pomological malingery which neglects an orchard until it becomes worthless, and then destroys it because it yields no return. Nothing else within the broad domain of Terræculture is so treated. The man who will almost break his back thinning out turnips, or weeding the fragrant onion, considers it intolerable hardship to reduce the excessive yield of his apple trees. The work is cleanly, can be done in an upright posture, between seed-time and harvest. But—my father never

*The Cankerworm Disgrace.—A good apple tree, well established in bearing, if estimated by the income which may be derived from it, is worth from $30 to $100 and more. In other words, the individual trees in a good orchard are worth as much as the individual animals in a good herd of cattle. Owners of herds spare neither time nor trouble, nor outlay in money, in order to keep their herds healthful; but owners of orchards stand by and do nothing, while the cankerworm destroys their trees. It is a shame. The effective remedy, spraying with a solution of one pound of Paris green or London purple to 100 gallons of water, is inexpensive. The use of these poisons requires care; but long experience with them in fighting the potato bug makes it easy to exercise the requisite care in saving the orchards. The apathy with which we submit to ravages of the cankerworm would lead a foreign observer, ignorant of our character, to infer either that we are not sufficiently intelligent to measure the loss, or else that we are fatalists, like the Mohammedans, and accept the cankerworm as a dispensation of Providence, which it would be useless and perhaps impious to oppose. We know better. Our people are neither unintelligent nor fatalistic. The trouble comes from ultra conservatism. We have always been used to letting the orchard take care of itself, and it is hard for us to realize that fruit trees, as much as domestic animals, may require and will reward watchful protection. There are times, however, when conservatism becomes disgraceful, and I think this is one of them.—*Amherst, Mass., cor. Homestead.*

did so and why should I? Can you not see that the glut in the market, whereof you complain, is caused by this over-production of good, indifferent, or positively bad, which offend the eye and repel the taste? "There is room enough at the top!" said Daniel Webster to the young lawyer who sought encouragement. More now than ever do men desire the best of everything. And he who supplies it, without evasion or fraud, will surely command the success that he deserves, though at times the reward may seem slow of coming.

For the pomologists of this Society, at least, there can be no valid excuse. What they might accomplish can be predicated from their past and present achievements. They go to Boston, or to Springfield; and whether from the banks of the Charles or Connecticut, return laden with spoils. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society admits their evident superiority, and the Bay State Agricultural concedes its supreme awards. Why then not compete with the farmers along the valley of the *Gaspereau* for more lucrative returns? Shall we confess inferiority to the Blue-Nose; own that for skill in culture and honesty in marketing, we have at last met our superiors! Home Industry! prate less about it, but illustrate it in practice! Rest assured that in this, as in all other material affairs, where there is a will there is a way! And that, if we elect to sit with folded hands, waiting for the gods to provide; there is no good reason why the orchardists of Nova Scotia, who prefer to work out their own salvation, should not reap quick and rich reward from their assiduous labor.

"The spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits, and upon thy vintage," wailed Jeremiah, of old; and the townsman and granger of this latter day may well echo his lamentation. There is a law against Truancy; and Truancy is the commonest offence. There are statutes prohibiting Theft; and like most prohibitory statutes, they are more honored in the breach than the observance. "Thou shalt not steal!" is the burden of many a lesson at the Sunday-School; blazoning its own suggestive legend upon the tablets that adorn the walls of the sanctuary. But the small boy,—and the children of a larger growth,—approve themselves

equal to the emergency. It is a theory that confronts them—not a condition. Their name is legion and they are gregarious,—prowling in gangs. Their keen sight espies the Red Astrachan from afar and they take it for granted that *Mrs.* Green has gone to church. So the smallest,—who has a pair of shoes, and a whole seat to his trousers, creeps stealthily along the division fence. Just as he has beckoned to his fellows; spirits more evil than himself in that, with like appetite, they have less daring; the voice of your *Secretary* shouting the war-whoop of Pomona, falls upon their affrighted ears and

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth!"

Thus "conscience doth make cowards of us all."

It was at three o'clock in the afternoon of a week-day when the orchard of Charles L. Pierce was cleaned out. The tale may not be exact; but that will be a safe reckoning which puts it well nigh upon seven boys, three girls, and two capacious baskets. They were not dainty; if immature, Gravensteins were worth carrying off and green Bartletts satisfied the cravings of those more fastidious.

As for the charming Roses of *Dea.* Griffin,—have not the foot-walks of Cedar street been strewn with their wasted petals? What we do not possess, ourselves, no one else shall cultivate and enjoy is the gospel that these imps of malicious mischief are suffered to practice, as they prey, without ceasing.

If the turn of the Granger comes later, with none the less certainty does the Assyrian descend upon his fold. The average bummer is lazy; so he employs a team to convey himself to the scene of proposed depredation and to haul back his spoil. When nuts are ripe, ponderous mauls must be carried along to jar the tree to the inevitable ruin of its trunk. For the wounds caused by the abrasion of their bark surely, if slowly, result in the decay and death of nut-bearing trees. This variety of hoodlum elects Sunday for his raids; since he can thus elude the observation of his wife or mother who, on that day at least, is not toiling to keep the breath of life in his worthless carcase. Besides, the odds are that the Granger maintains the old-fashioned custom of "going to meeting," and will therefore be off guard. And over

and beyond all,—larceny and trespass, on Sunday, are infected with a delicious taint that carries with it a peculiar charm of its own. So they swarm; for in their mere number is immunity. And if hordes are but strong enough, theft ceases to be a crime, being transmuted into, as it were, a simple *malum prohibitum*.

There is but one unpardonable sin! under the modern electric light,—and that is Thirst. Therefore must lice be suffered in the Hop-yard, and Barley withhold its golden grain, that Beer may no longer be brewed and bottled for the minister and his predestined saints. To that end should the apple be surrendered to the cankerworm and codling-moth that, the fruit being spoiled, there may be no more cider; and honest vinegar cease to be used upon beans. Pears shall be allowed to blight, at hazard; that perry may never again be tolerated, save perchance by the Committee at an Agricultural hippodrome. "Property is Theft!" shrieked the Frenchman; and he has never lacked disciples to reduce his dogma to practice. "Property is Crime!" yell the Pharasees, when the Grape is plucked from the vine and its juice sealed up in a bottle. What wonder that, with such laxity of thought and absurdity of logic, men of only common intelligence should be thrown off their balance; should confound the distinction between right and wrong; and should conclude that there is more truth than poetry in the old distich whose burden was ever

> "That they should get who have the power;
> And they should keep, who can."

Nothing novel, of manifest excellence, was shown in our Halls during the season just past. Old and approved varieties, whether in the domain of Ceres, Flora, or Pomona, maintained their established rank despite the unpropitious season. Yet their names were as familiar as household words and their preëminence universally conceded. Time, however, may be said to have set the seal of approval to the *Ansault* and *Earle's Bergamot*, among Pears; and those varieties of recent introduction, should now take first rank. It is plain that the Ansault matures later than has been supposed: specimens gathered on the 9th October being one-third larger than those which gained the award on the 6th September previous. Juicy as the *Belle Lucrative*, it has

more character than that well-known variety, while equally prolific; and has the merit, whereof the Lucrative is signally deficient, of not rotting at the core. Your *Secretary* has been cautious, heretofore, in expressing a decided opinion of this variety, as he first introduced it to your notice. He has no hesitation now, in pronouncing it, for those who love pears because of intrinsic merit, a rare acquisition.

As much might be said of *Earle's Bergamot*, did it not inherit in measure more or less qualified, the tendency of the Lucrative to rot at the core. Otherwise, it is of marked excellence and approves itself worthy to bear the honored name of him by whom it was originated. The Belle Lucrative has yielded much to cross-fertilization. But none of its offspring have ever shown so many and decided good qualities as that which is traced to this union with the Autumn Bergamot. For its own sake and that the variety created by John Milton Earle may not be wholly lost, our members should see to it that its scions are widely diffused and that its perpetuation is made an object of local pride and care.

And yet the postulate which assumes that there has been nothing new, of signal high quality, to challenge your scrutiny and favor, may be too sweeping. For it would exclude numerous apples of recent origin, of which some, commended when first shown, have been decided to merit encouragement and more extended trial. Notable among these are the seedlings of our associate, Thomas A. Dawson, and one which, during the current Autumn, was placed upon our tables by Mr. John Hough. Both climate and soil of Worcester County have approved themselves congenial to the apple. The Baldwin was a sport of chance. Shall there therefore never be another happy accident? Ensuring to our enjoyment and profit a fruit of fairer appearance, richer flavor, and of less exhaustive fecundity? Its development might exact attention and patience, design and careful semination being admitted within our category. It would not answer to let cattle browse them. But such a variety, maturing in Winter, is wanted in both the Home and Foreign Market; and fame and fortune will be the just reward of the man by whom it is produced.

There was little complaint of *Pear-Blight* during the past year. Shall we therefore conclude that there were no Bacteria to do harm, or instead that they had lapsed into "innocuous desuetude?" Perhaps Science will exclaim, in view of our comparative exemption from this dreaded scourge, for the season just past,—"so much the worse for the facts!" But to those of us who prefer proof to assumption, or dogmatism; and who almost incline to faith in the periodicity of disease; food for reflection is supplied in the significant fact of the recovery, by many old favorites among pears, of their pristine health and vigor. Beurre Diel and Flemish Beauty were almost abandoned,—so sure were they to crack, becoming worthless. And yet, of late years, specimens of either variety have been shown in our Hall, of unsurpassed excellence, whether regard was paid to size, symmetry, or beauty of appearance. Man had accomplished nothing to effect a cure. Was Nature idle?

The failure of the Grape to mature its fruit has been a serious disappointment and loss. So unpropitious was the season that the wonder is that any clusters should have become edible,—let alone fit to eat. In these closing days of October, the Diana hangs half-colored, where it never before went back upon a confident faith. Under similar conditions the Barry, Lindley, and Massasoit of the Rogers Hybrids; and the Brighton, of more recent origin; were the only varieties that did not set the children's teeth on edge. Of those, especially, persistent trial warrants the statement that where they can be grown so as to be shielded from the earlier frosts, they will be sure to repay cultivation with a crop thoroughly ripe. The broad jet to a modern dwelling-house answers the requirement admirably: if the building is of brick, the warmth of the walls will be a decided advantage. In a garden, where the vines are trained upon an upright trellis, a six-inch board will supply an adequate coping. Glass would be better where economy is not urgent. That the Grape can be grown, and well-ripened, almost anywhere in Worcester County, has been fully demonstrated. So delicious a fruit is worth all the pains that its cultivation may require. True, original sin lies latent in its juice! But then how easy to suspend the laws

of Nature, and arrest fermentation and total depravity by a simultaneous prohibition!

Moreover, new kinds are continually developed. If no actual advance upon the Iona, in point of quality, is yet manifest, it is certainly not from lack of experiment. But we could well afford to be content with that grand variety, were it endowed with a greater degree of hardiness. Let us wish success to all efforts, by whomsoever made, to produce the Grape of the Future! And until that ideal is in actual possession, let us do the best that we can, under the skies of New England, with the many excellent varieties that we already enjoy. A single adverse season should not paralyze a generation.

All which is respectfully submitted,

by

EDWARD WINSLOW LINCOLN,

Secretary.

Horticultural Hall,

Worcester, Worcester Co., Mass.,

7 November, A. D. 1888.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Members of the

Worcester County Horticultural Society:

The Librarian, in submitting his annual report, has nothing of special interest to mention. The Library has been consulted at the room quite as much as usual, and books taken to the homes of members to the number of about 300, all of which have been returned excepting a few that can be brought in at call.

The condition of the Library is satisfactory with the exception of a want of shelf-room, and a considerable outlay for binding. It is hoped that both of these matters will be attended to the coming year.

The following list comprises books, pamphlets and papers added to the Library during the past year, by purchase or gift:

Report of Department of Agriculture; 1877, '78, '79; 1880, '81, '82, '84, '85, '86.

Statistical Abstract for Foreign Countries, for each year, from 1873 to 1885.

Statistics of Public Libraries of the United States; from the Report of the Commission of Education for the year 1884, '85, with additions. Pamphlet; Dept. Int. The management of Public Libraries; by William F. Poole. Pamphlet. The Republic of Mexico in 1876; a Political and Ethnological Division of the Population, Character, Habits, Costumes and Vocations of its Inhabitants. Written in Spanish, by Antonio Garcia Cubas. Translated into English by Geo. E. Henderson.

Report from the Consuls of the United States: Nos. 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92.

Report of the Commission of Navigation to the Secretary of the Treasury; from W. W. Rice.

Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for 1886; from W. W. Rice.

Department of the Interior, the following: Salt, by Albert Williams, Jr.; Quicksilver, by Albert Williams, Jr.; Sulphur, by D. T. Day.

Bulletins, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; from State Board of Health, of Nashville, Tenn.

The Study of History in American College Universities, by Herbert B. Adams; from the Bureau of Education.

Third Inaugural Address of Hon. Samuel Winslow, Mayor of the City of Worcester.

Memoir of Alexander H. Bullock, by Charles Devens; E. W. Lincoln.

American Pomological Society; years 1856—1862, '67; 1873, '75, '77, '79; 1883, '85; R. Manning.

Transactions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Part 1, 1887, and Part 2, 1886, 1887.

Curtis Botanical Magazine, 1887, Vol. 43, 3d Series, or Vol. 113 of the whole work; Society.

Proceedings of the Forestry Convention, held in Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 26, 27, 1888.

Hints for Arbor Day; Agricultural College, Michigan.

Chemistry of Food and its Adulterations; from State Board of Health, Tennessee, 1888.

Report of Commissioner of Education, 1885, '86.

Revue Horticole, 1887; Society.

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (15th) of the Massachusetts State Grange Patrons of Husbandry, held at Springfield, Dec. 20, 21, 1887; James Draper.

Fifth Annual Report of the Board of Control of State Agricultural Experiment Station, at Amherst; Doc. No. 33.

Bulletin No. 34, State Agri. Ex. Station of Michigan; relating to Potatoes and Oats.

Journal of Horticulture, vols. 15 and 16; 3d series; Society.

Report on the Adaptation of Russian and other Fruits to the extreme Northern portion of the United States; Dept. of Agriculture.

Census of Massachusetts, 1885; Agricultural Products and Property; H. L. Parker.

State Board of Health, 1887; H. L. Parker.

Bulletin Nos. 40 and 41, Experiment Station, Agricultural College, Michigan.

Catalogues received: Aaron Low, Essex, Mass.; V. H. Hallock & Sons, Queens, N. Y.; Peter Henderson & Co., New York; John Saul, Washington, D. C.; Henry A. Dreer, Philadelphia, Pa.

Extract from Monthly Weather Review, July, 1888, showing

average date of first killing frost at Stations of Voluntary and State Weather Service Observers; Department of State.

The American Horticultural; Monthly; Society.
The American Florist; Semi-Monthly; 1888; Society.
Gardening Illustrated; Weekly; 1888; Society.
Vick's Magazine; Monthly; 1888; Society.
The Garden; English Weekly; 1888; Society.
The Gardener's Chronicle; English Weekly; 1888; Society.
The Agricultural Gazette; English Weekly; 1888; Society.
The American Agriculturist; Monthly; 1888; Society.
The Country Gentleman; 1888; Society.
Garden and Forest; Weekly; 1888; Society.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES E. BROOKS,
Librarian.

Hall of Flora,
November 7, 1888.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

WORCESTER COUNTY

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

A. D. 1889.

Worcester, Mass.
CHARLES HAMILTON, PRINTER,
311 MAIN STREET.
1889.

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WORCESTER COUNTY
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.
A. D. 1889.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

To the Members of the

Worcester County Horticultural Society:

What the Society has been able to accomplish, during the past official year, in its appointed, peculiar province, will be set forth, with more or less distinctness of outline, elsewhere in this Report. Otherwise,—it is possible to congratulate you upon an average measure of success in securing money, wherewith to defray legitimate expenses and meet the levy of invidious taxation. But there are improvements imperatively necessary to our Hall that ought not to be deferred longer. The worst of it all is, that by so much the better we make the actual value of our building, by so much wider do we expand the vision, or fancy, of the Assessors! Yet the wall in the rear must be carried out flush with the line of the Passage-Way, if we would have the platform in the Hall of Pomona even comfortable; or wish to protect ourselves from continual encroachment, with ultimate possibility of serious damage. The upper story should be entirely remodelled by alteration and enlargement of the Hall of Ceres, or otherwise, as a sound discretion shall elect: so that any party may commence and finish its evening of social pleasure under one and the same roof. Our ground location is admirable; thanks to the sagacity of our Founders who, if they builded wiser than they knew, at least had the courage to build! Our halls of Flora and Pomona are of easy access, which is not quite

as true of the hall of Ceres. In our case, as in that of the fabled aspirant for distinction, it may be safely averred that there is plenty of spare room at the top. Let us then make the most of it! Let us bring it into actual daily use and occupation; simultaneously remedying some evils that are inevitable in the present condition. The Finance Committee doubt not that the beauty and symmetry of our several halls can be retained, while materially increasing their attractiveness and value as a source of income. It cannot be very long, in the nature of things, before something will have to be done; then possibly to less advantage or after the alienation of steady and profitable patronage.

It may be proper to add that while the Finance Committee do not reproach themselves with or because of the appearance of the front, exterior wall, neither do they cherish undue pride on its account. How long before it will become positively discreditable to the Society? if it falls much short of that now.

A Society is incorporated, by the General Court of Massachusetts, for the explicit and declared purpose of advancing the Science and encouraging and improving the Practice of Horticulture. It is no violent presumption, arguing from its honorable membership, that the Society has kept that aim steadily in view. Premiums have been offered, and gratuities bestowed without intermission, and in almost a profusion of graciousness, throughout its legal existence and down to the present day. Is it untimely, or at all out of place, to inquire whether there is not peril of falling into a rut wherefrom there shall be no extrication? Is it not possible that a Society, which puts forth as the ostensible reason for its existence, that it determines annually which of a dozen lots of Baldwin Apples, or Bartlett Pears, manifests points of superiority, may simply cumber the ground? Is not Progression an imperative law of nature? Is not immobility the equivalent of stagnation? wherefrom are in inevitable evolution, dissolution and decay. How many years does it require to ascertain the possibilities of a new variety;—if a fruit,—its hardiness and fecundity, and whether it may be especially subject to attack from insect enemies! How numerous generations must grow, develop, and exhibit specimens before a final decision shall

be reached that this or that Apple or Pear is worthy of encouragement; is fair to the eye, luscious to the taste, nor exceptionally difficult to cultivate! When those points have been decided once,—why should there be motions in arrest of judgment, or appeals therefrom? But yet,—what else, or in what manner different,—is our official action as a Society? In the matter of size and weight—say of the Bartlett Pear, since the famous contest between Butman, Ripley, and Stebbins,—what has repaid our efforts! Has there been a single step in advance? Is there not even discouraging proof of retrogression? Whether advance or recession—what do we, in recognition of either, but plod along in the same old way,—offering a premium for the best of the year to come! Do we stop to inquire why each successive step is not surely forward? Do we spend more than a moment in thought, to try and explain, as the American Humorist tersely put his apt conundrum, "Why are these things thus!" The Exhibition passes,—and there is an end. The morning newspaper makes record of the display and publishes sharp note of its least latent inferiority. What has the collective Society,—what have the associate Members themselves,—learned from the costly and laborious object-teaching! What lessons has that teaching imparted to the community that could not have been deduced at less trouble to all concerned, and for not much greater expense, from an inspection of the kerb-stone display by any of a half-dozen hucksters along Main Street? Beyond the memory of any man now living the Bartlett Pear had been decided worthy of general cultivation. As far back as the origin of the present generation your own Exhibitions settled, by a thorough competitive test, to what extreme its bulk could be stimulated. You have developed nothing better, subsequently,—no specimens of equal size. Does this vain repetition advance the science, or encourage and improve the practice of Horticulture? This Society might reply, like all others similarly inclined and actually misguided, that it puts money in their purse! But so, for a while, would any other form of prostitution!

Is it not well worth our while; and has not the time come, now that the dawn of our Fiftieth Anniversary begins to tinge the

horizon; to indulge in introspection, and to assure ourselves, by such thorough self-examination, whether we are securing the utmost possible benefit from our industry and investment! It is no easy matter to prefer the strait and narrow way. Our immediate self denial will enure to the benefit of posterity,—you may assert. Conceded! but still you can only avoid;—not answer the blunt retort,—what has posterity done for us? And what certainty can be had,—whether from deduction or inference, that posterity will be suited with the provision that we make for it! May it not suffice to attempt the complete discharge of our duties as they are presented to us, in our own day and generation; leaving those by whom we are succeeded, to take their own measure of obligation to themselves and their time, in their own peculiar environment! The question then recurs: Cannot we better advance the Science and encourage and improve the Practice of Horticulture, than by the mere award of money to the larger or fairer specimen of Fruit, or Flower? Perhaps it might not be expedient or wise to discourage object-lessons altogether. But, cannot a higher form of teaching be introduced; a more advanced system of instruction such as a careful expenditure of our frugal savings shall enable us to initiate and foster? Experiment Stations—so called—appear to be restricted within the comparatively narrow province of agriculture; which, in its accepted modern definition is limited to "that species of cultivation which is intended to raise grain and other field crops for man and beast,—in short, signifying husbandry." Those Stations are not intended to take much account of the problems which have perplexed the human race since Eden was foreclosed and the first garden became a cattle ranch. Their Docents do not ransack mouldy papyri for some primeval mention of Fire Blight; nor exhaust patience and time in searching cuneiform inscriptions if perchance they may disclose to modern inquisitiveness whether there were a worm in the core of that Gravenstein before whose seductive aspect Eve succumbed—an easy victim! Nor yet does Clark University come to our aid; its energies being confined, at least for the present, to a profound analysis of the precise inwardness of the Cosmic Egg. So that what we—Horticulturists—would ascertain, we must find out for ourselves—and others!

It is quite likely that no amount of study will avail to determine with certainty, why every fruit of the earth was yielded prematurely, A. D. 1889. We may not learn with the strength of conviction, for what occult reason the canker-worm disappeared, and the caterpillar ravaged in very wantonness. Bacteria, it is asserted, are deadly foes to the pear tree. In what manner and to what extent, are these lowest forms of vitality subject to climatic influence that they did not get in their fine work during this year of our Lord, 1889, wherein, if countless foes have compassed us round about, Fire-Blight at least has not been mustered in the ranks of the devastating legion.

And yet another question, of serious import to ourselves. Shall not the science of Horticulture review the practice of grafting? If the unsettled problem of its expediency or wisdom is not solved by ourselves, to whom such research should be familiar, by whom then unless those delicious sciolists who resolve Floriculture, Pomology, Horticulture and the growth of vegetables into distinct and separate classes! Says that high authority.—*The Garden* (*Eng.*):

The Evils of Grafting.—I was very glad to see the remarks from such a good gardener as Mr. Scrase-Dickins on this subject at pp. 607-8. Grafting is in effect a kind of adulteration. When we ask the nurserymen to sell us one plant they often give us two in a more or less—generally less—effectual state of combination. It is an analogue of the coffee and chicory business. Amateurs cannot be too alert and cautious in seeing that they obtain either honest plants on their own roots, or if grafted plants, then a declaration to that effect should be made by the nurseryman, and the name of the stock on which the species or variety ordered is worked should be given. Grafted plants of all kinds are open to all sorts of accidents and disaster, and very often the soil, or the climate, or the cultivator is blamed by employers for evils which thus originated in the nursery. It is to be hoped that all cultivators interested in trees and shrubs will now keep their eyes open and note the behaviour of grafted as compared with own-rooted kinds. If grafted plants are better than own-rooted ones, then let us accept them, but do not let us be deceived in the matter. If in certain places grafting as a convenience has to be resorted to, then let it be root-grafting, a system that eventually affords the scion a chance of rooting on its own account in

a natural way. Many plants succeed as grafted when young, or for a few years, and afterwards fail, and then the gardener is often blamed instead of the nurseryman.—*F. W. Burbidge.*

*** We should not plant any grafted tree or shrub whatever so far as what are called "ornamental" trees and shrubs are concerned. There may be reason for the universal grafting of fruit trees, though we doubt it. But of the serious injury wrought by grafting in other ways there are heaps of evidence. The evils are more serious than have been stated in *The Garden.—Ed.*

Does not experience here in America, confirm that absolute dictum? What wealth of Rhododendrons has been dissipated in the futile effort to unite those between whom Nature had decreed an insuperable barrier! Take for another example the *Prunus triloba* of quite recent introduction and obvious charm! likely to renew olden memories of the Flowering Almond. Flourishing for a season in rich luxuriance, and all at once dropping off in a species of collapse, as it were, alike sudden and hopeless. Roses, on alien roots, are a delusion and snare. Propagation in that way offers no advantages over the simpler method of natural growth to which layering and subdivision afford ample subvention. The eager greed of the professional dealer overreaches itself. Identity may be transmuted, but maturation must be of gradual development. Exhaustion supervenes upon inoculation with a growth that has been so hurried as to allow neither accretion nor storage of vital forces. It supplies an apt illustration of that haste which makes waste with almost invariable assurance.

Mr. Robinson does not so emphatically condemn the practice of grafting, among Pomologists. But its evils must be apparent enough to such an acute observer, as he looks upon the currant and gooseberry "*trees*" of which perpetuation by a layering or sub-division has been rendered impossible. Does not grafting open a young heaven, as it were, to the lazy Horticulturist? Somebody else alike ambitious and energetic, has taken pains to sow, cultivate and test, until the point of approbation was reached. His neighbor tastes,—likes the flavor and begs scions. There was promise of a step forward. Has it not come to a halt? The medical faculty speak of "healing from the first intention." But they would not be understood as conveying the impression that in

that first intention, health lies inherent, or that it is inevitably imparted, *ex vi vulneris*. Hap-hazard some superb peaches were shown in our Hall within a few years last past. Might not perseverance convert such chances into a certainty? We know that excellence was not confined to a few varieties, for the equals, if not superiors of the Cooledge and Crawfords have been developed in this County and exhibited upon our tables. Your Secretary never beheld finer specimens than were shown to him during the first week of September, ult., that had been suffered to mature, whether on John, Richards or Sever Streets; perhaps forgotten by the donor, or overlooked by the ubiquitous thief. We may not object to the insertion in thrifty stocks, of buds from trees of such unqualified excellence. But why not secure and plant sound pits from choice fruits that we are sure were never infected by disease—gathering where we ourselves have strewn? "Be aye stickin in a tree, Jock!" said rare old Sir Walter.

Still another problem whose solution may upset pre-conceived notions, or dispel the vague mists of irrational prejudice. It has been taken for granted for long years that the out-door grape, for instance, requires a protracted warm season to which the direct rays of the sun must contribute heat and light. And yet, upon the fifteenth of September, ult., when the attention of your Secretary was first arrested, the Diana,—that latest of all approved varieties to mature,—hung from the vine of as ripe quality and full color as often on the first day of November! What latent forces in the laboratory of Nature conspired to achieve this surprising result? The winter it is true, had been mild. But there ensued, for a wonder in Massachusetts, a rainy season; when clouds dripping moisture were daily with us and the sun gradually faded into a tradition. The very early maturity of that grape cannot, of course, be owing to solar influence, operating as usual. It is easy enough to frame theories that might hold water this year, at least, since there has been little else. Have we stumbled perchance, upon a clue? Does the grape crave water, and thrive upon it, when supplied in abundance? We know that the wild native grape-vine selects for

its habitat moist lowlands and even dense swamps. Have we—blind leaders of the blind,—over-looked an actual fact, because it lay so obviously before us, and disregarded the plain lesson that it was meant to teach! The best and dryest crop of squashes—Marrow and Yokohama—that your Secretary ever grew, developed while they were subject to an incessant *douché*. He has never forgotten that fact, although hesitating to deduce from it an inflexible rule. Does this year afford an analogy; and are we warranted in the contention that irrigation may be found as essential to successful Horticulture here in Worcester County as it has approved itself in far Mormonia and Monogamia?

A marked preculiarity of the premature horticultural development, this year, has been its unbroken continuity. Of yore, there were often seasons whose promise was quickly blighted; wherein the opening crocus or Narcissus would be buried under a foot of snow. The tulip has encouraged a hope, in early May, that cold and persistent rains effectually disappointed. This year the strawberry was favored with intermittent showers until the fecundity of such plants as were in existence made both palate and spine tired; consumer and grower alike wearying in well doing. But then scarcely a single plantation of strawberries came out from the winter in good condition. And that, not so much owing to the season, which was unusually propitious, as to the neglect of man to profit by his opportunities. The while, raspberries spoiled, decaying in the young dog days, whose dense moisture was prolific of a fungus or mildew between which there neither was nor could be option. A. D. 1888-9, from the date of your Chrysanthemum display until long after your first vernal exhibition the skies smiled, the air was soft, and the temperature uniformly moderate. No winter season within the memory of any man now living was ever more genial. If, at any time, the horticulturists of Worcester County were warranted in bright anticipations it was especially in the Spring of 1889. But what has been the harvest? If any fruit, the larger portion wormy, or imperfect otherwise; of deficient flavor and untimely maturation. Very likely the ground is carpeted or paved with defective specimens; but the empty shelves of the fruit room offer forlorn prospect for the hearty appetites of winter.

It has been asserted by old-time devotees of Hard Cider, that A. D. 1840, the cherry was at its prime in Worcester, on the seventeenth day of June. The sons of political veterans saw a renewal of that miracle, as it were, for a Massachusetts season; and could hug themselves in the fond delusion that the precession of fruits, like the election of the saints, had been a matter of foreordination, and was no longer relegated to the helter-skelter of the polls.

Our schedule for A. D. 1889, was carefully framed after a full comparison and study of past seasons. Yet, among the earlier fruits, Gov. Garland and Waterloo peaches were shown upon the twenty-fifth of July, when we had only ventured to anticipate early varieties, by a tentative gratuity on the eighth of August. Beatrice called for August 15th, was mature upon the first of that month. Among vegetables, Beauty tomato and Marrow squash were both shown upon our tables August 1st, precisely two (2) weeks ahead of their assignment. The Bartlett pear was necessarily advanced, to prevent it being said that an exhibition of the Worcester County Horticultural Society was duly held, whereat no specimens of that standard variety were available. In mid September, Louise Bonne that is not gathered must needs be picked up, bruised, from the ground.

It would hardly be worth while to speculate upon chances yet remote; whether the winter is to close in upon us ruthlessly, or to recede as a twelvemonth since in a dream of ethereal mildness. Suffice it to say that this reversal of all climatic probabilities introduces a new element among the calculations of the horticulturist; as though the problems for his practical solution were not already perplexing enough.

Does your *Secretary* then surrender his faith, so emphatically declared of late in your presence, that it is possible to grow fruit here in Worcester County at a profit! Recognizing the full force of adverse conditions, which do not now for the first time dominate the situation, he can yet perceive that the plague of insects will not be remedied by nature alone. He believes in, and would insist upon the destruction of infested specimens, with as much promptitude and as thorough devotion to the work as the careful housewife manifests in the extermination of the

carpet-beetle or *cimex lectularius*. There are insect foes to every crop that man would gather and enjoy. We cannot sow and reap in indolence; nor does any one expect large fruition when he plants grain or tuber. The cotton-boll has its especial worm, even as the apple has its codling moth or the plum its curculio. The Hessian fly and the potato beetle unite the twin extremes of tradition and actual observation; ceaseless diligence alone availing to arrest their destructive ravages. Only from the orchard do we count upon a return for which we have expended no toil. We find ourselves in possession of a lot of trees, set out by whom we may or may not know; neglected in the past, as we cannot help seeing; their bark covered by scale or moss-grown; and their branches robbed by sap-sprouts of the little vigor that they might otherwise retain. If the potato beetle comes in force we meet his incursion with the ready resource which science has placed in our hands. Does a thunder shower threaten our hay, all cured for storage in the barn? Every hand is summoned to its rescue, Sunday though it be. The orchard is the one thing in the possession of the horticulturist that is left to care for itself. His father planted it, forsooth, selecting the varieties approved in his own day; or inserting them as scions when made favorably known thereafter. His son receives no return, from one cause or another, in an unpropitious year possibly, and straightway the orchard is doomed to the axe and fire. It never seems to occur to this Earth-Lord (is the title more sonorous than that of the German *War-Lord?*) that there was an origin to the orchard, and that like may be expected with reason to generate like for all time. He has virgin soil of his own; whether such from the bounty of nature or the fault of man, is immaterial. If heretofore tilled to the point of exhaustion and waste, Nature has kindly intervened with her deliberate process of restoration. Whether renovated or primeval it is as God first looked upon it and said:

"Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, and it was so."

If, as your Secretary has insisted before, fruit is not grown to profitable advantage throughout this County of Worcester, here-

tofore renowned for its pomological skill and success, does it not behoove us to look at home and see if the fault does not lie at our own door and not at the throne of God! For if at our own door self-conviction will be the first step towards amendment. If scale, blight or crack, with the worse than Egyptian plethora of insects, are the divine penalty for neglect and sloth, we shall at least have the option of mending our ways as we bow in conscious submission beneath the rod that smites us.

A Horticultural Society that is worthy of the name cannot insist too strenuously that quality shall govern the bestowal of its awards. The Society itself is composed of those who already know a good thing from actual experience, and of others who became members because, having seen an exhibition of what was superior to their own, they naturally wished to grow it in their own gardens. They desired flowers to cut for the adornment of their living rooms, and fruits wherewith to appease those youthful appetites that were too keen to await the Thanksgiving turkey. Their roses may not comply with the scale of technical perfection, nor be fit to compete against professional florists, in a class of twelve pet whims! But if the petals of their home-raised flowers should chance to be slightly fretted by wind and storm, their owners would at least have flowers not too choice for personal or domestic ornament; while upon fragrance they would be sure to insist, as a *sine qua non*. Nature, which created Jumbo as an exception among elephants, also imposes bulk upon the cabbage and squash. But the size alone of Her Majesty confers no lasting supremacy among roses; nor do symmetry, color and perfume fail to retain their tenacious hold upon the popular taste. How often has Jacqueminot been left off from selected lists. How invariably do the people rally in its behalf, and by their instinctive if untrained preference, vindicate the ancient adage co-eval with the very birth of Democracy, that a good many are apt to be wiser than a very few!

As matter of fact, have we not actually retrograded in the cultivation of fruits? What does Olean Street show to-day, compared with its superb exhibition of a few years ago? One of

our members, heretofore famous for the facility with which he could extract animal as well as vegetable blood from a turnip, and whose diversity of tomatoes from one and the same stalk bade fair to originate a new genesis, has abandoned his idols, succumbing to the attractions and attrition of house to house traffic. Years since, the venerable Charles Richardson set an example, placing *Triomphe de Gand* upon our tables for seven (7) successive weeks, all the specimens being in peerless condition and size. Now, that variety is discarded; its excellence a tradition cherished by a few of your older members, while your premiums are literally the prey of novelties that would never be grown if they were but thoroughly known. Joseph C. Lovell is no longer alive to astonish us by his unlimited collection of American grapes, and to compel attention to the merits of his subject, wherein his faith was as sincere as it was manifested in the downright earnestness of his honest nature. The huckster can be trusted to look out for himself, *as he does!* If a pear will sell it is the pear for him. The old Chelmsford would meet his want, as well as Earle's Bergamot! the Lord forgiving your Secretary for naming the two in the same connection. The Clairgeau is to him a very symbol of excellence,—as it were a paragon among fruits. If it attracts the eye and relaxes the purse-strings, why should he care if it does not also tickle the palate! But the conscience of a Horticultural Society cannot be so easy-going nor pliant. It must strive for pre-eminence or fall far short of the purpose of its existence. Would outward appearance sell the Ansault, Lucrative, or even the Seckel! Possibly the casual streak of crimson to Earle's Bergamot might find a market, more or less sluggish, for that variety, but its acceptance and rank should not be suffered to depend upon the hazard of color. Beurré Giffard is indisputably the best pear of its brief season. Yet it is allowed to die out to make room for Clapp's Favorite, alike large and tasteless, but oh! so pretty. Intrinsic positive merit is the only sure ground whereon a society like this can base its commendation. Lacking that, whatsoever else may characterize them, nor flower or fruit can deserve our approval. And without such merit, it is safe to predict that popular favor cannot be retained long.

In the preliminary remarks with which George Jaques, of honored horticultural renown, prefaced his pamphlet record of transactions during our earlier history, he says that:

"The success of the society was no longer to be questioned; a large number of gentlemen (would that we could add—and ladies) became members of it."

The statement which he was unable to make is, A. D. 1889, the easiest possible to your Secretary, as it would have been at any time within an entire generation last past. It might be difficult to exaggerate the extent of our obligations to our female associates of this Society, not alone in Worcester, but throughout many of the adjoining towns, who have so zealously contributed from their time and means towards the success of the frequent exhibitions. It does not require a very keen observer to notice that the favor of Ceres and Pomona is uncertain; often withheld upon the merest pretext that this rowen must be got in, or that corn shucked. Flora is no such slouch: doing all things decently and in order, and yet keeping her skirts ever clean as the whitest snow-flake that threatens her very life. It has often cheered your Secretary, as he lifted his eyes from the dull routine of his clerical task, to behold the apparition that would surely greet him, of bright looks, intent interest, and the sure development of the loose collection into a tasteful arrangement. The weight alone of the well-filled baskets should be appreciable to some who have not yet felt the grasshopper a burden. And all this, bear in mind! constantly; as well in the fervent heat of early summer, as during that sticky, oppressive season sacred to the dog-star and his countless litter of stellar pups. Whosoever else may faint or falter, Flora and her votaries offer a cheek fair and fresh as the blush rose to our salute of welcome. Robbing themselves for our benefit, our bounty can return at best but an inadequate recompense. Yet if the remuneration that we may bestow cannot, in the very nature of things, be commensurate with desert, it will be possible, at the worst, to manifest an appreciation as cordial as it should be unreserved.

But with all this devotion and self-sacrifice can we not detect a taint, as it were, connecting it with the soil,—of the earth,

earthy? Your Trustees propose four (4) premiums in almost every class of Floriculture; thereby evincing a liberality quite akin to profusion, and such as it extends, in like measure, to neither the Fruit nor Vegetable Departments. Yet latterly, there has crept or crawled in a practice of ignoring the fundamental purpose of our Society; of deliberately declining our challenge to friendly competition; and of awaiting, with such Christian and feminine grace as might be held in superfluity, the reluctant bounty of the judge. This method of exhibition, seemingly growing in acceptance throughout these latter days, is little better than an evasion of the spirit of our rules. Competition is essential to our healthy existence, and without it we must stagnate and die. It is the better of two or more lots of flowers or fruit, to which we intend to award our premiums; and the palm of excellence can be determined in no other way than by comparison. The gratuity should never be bestowed as a matter of course. Its original design was to smooth the slight asperities consequent upon that strict adherence to form without which no Society can exist in sound vitality. But when the award of gratuities has become numerically, if not intrinsically, superior to the premiums, wherever or to whom is especial merit assigned? That lofty standard of supreme and unquestioned excellence that has been maintained unswervingly for well-nigh fifty (50) years is ignominiously abased;—and all for what! That this or that exhibitor, who confesses inferiority by declining to enter into equal and honorable rivalry with associates endowed with no greater advantages, may get fifty cents! Shade of Daniel Waldo! was it for such a final consummation that you bequeathed the generous sum whereon were secured, firm and true, the foundations of this Horticultural Hall!

This Society was represented in accordance with its usual custom, at the late session of the American Pomological Society in Ocala, Florida. The very interesting report of your delegate has been submitted, and should be published in your Transactions. It would appear to be a duty that we owe to our acknowledged high repute among cognate organizations to co-operate with all who have the true interests of Pomology at heart. For,

although but a portion of our interest is directed towards the origination and development of Fruits, Horticulture is all-embracing, and vital with generous influence. It is not liable to stricture, as appears to be the conceit of that funny aggregation,—the New England Agricultural Society. It was not left for Groton and Salem to separate those who were united at the creation. And, even though a rude ploughshare may be driven through our especial field of science and practice; drawing a faint line of distinction where difference never existed; establishing Horticulture, Floriculture, Pomology, and Vegetable growth apart, by themselves, in a novel and peculiar terminology; we have positive evidence continually before us that those who were joined when the stars sang together cannot be severed though the brasses clash. The oranges of Florida concern us—largely their consumers. It is our hope, and interest alike, that no untimely frost may chill their nascent bloom or cut off their ample promise. Doubtless, ere long a system of interchange will make the traffic in semi-tropical fruit more a matter of mutual barter than, as now, of direct, one-sided outlay. The Belleflower, Northern Spy, or Roxbury Russet may yet find place upon the tables in Jacksonville and St. Augustine. The trade, at present, does not impoverish us, although we have to pay in cash. As with bread cast upon the waters we are benefited ultimately. In this case, by the commerce, by the personal intercourse, by the enjoyment of delicious and healthful fruit, that we cannot ourselves produce, and should therefore rejoice to get so near our own doors.

It is of interest, and perhaps advantage, to note the different opinions expressed in various sections of the Republic, concerning varieties of the Pear more or less favorably known among ourselves. Thus, the *New York Times*, which keeps a close and usually intelligent watch of the fruit market, had only to say of the Bosc that, like the boy's puppy, it was better than it looked! In a subsequent issue, it referred to the Sheldon as—

"An apple-shaped pear, rusty in appearance, somewhat sweet, and is really a very good pear either for cooking or for eating in a raw state."

But a very few weeks since, one of our few surviving Honorary Members—John J. Thomas—who, since the death of Marshall P.

Wilder, and the enforced retirement of Patrick Barry, stands without a peer among living Pomologists, published an article in the *Country Gentleman* descriptive of "Some good varieties of the Pear." Summed up, they are Anjou, Sheldon, St. Michel, Seckel, Lawrence, Clairgeau, Bosc; the conclusion being eloquent with praise of the Bartlett. It is curious to find this eminent authority while admitting that the Bosc, for instance, "is one of the best of all Autumn Pears," yet declaring that "the tree is not a very good grower, and is injured by our severest winters." Here, in Worcester, the Bosc is at last receiving its proper recognition as one of the very best varieties. Although late in coming into bearing, its growth is rapid enough to be consistent with maturation of the wood; and it minds a blast from the North Pole about as much as does the Hickory or White Oak. The writer has often puzzled himself as to the character of the winters in Western New York; surmising that the contiguity of countless lakes might encourage frequent and intense vicissitudes of temperature. He recalls to mind that Ellwanger & Barry once thought Cydonia Japonica not much better than half-hardy in the vicinity of Rochester. Yet Horticulture is a success because of the proximity of these charming bodies of water; and the wonder is why the tough wood of the Pear should not be equally proof against extremes of frost, in that favored region, as it has approved itself for more than a century, in the American Bottom at Kaskaskia, among the old French settlements of Illinois!

Writing of the Seckel,—Mr. Thomas calls attention to a disease that it may be hoped will continue local, for the Seckel is a variety of world-wide acceptance that could illy be spared. It has been nearly destroyed, he says, by the same disease that has been fatal to the White Doyenné, or St. Michel:

"Scarcely a single bushel of good specimens being found in an estimated crop of two hundred bushels. Some years ago the Seckel in this orchard was fine and fair, and was the most profitable variety in an orchard of the leading market sorts. And during the present year some trees only a few miles distant bore perfectly fair fruit. This disease has puzzled cultivators, and in the experiments we have made Seckel trees subjected to enrich-

ing cultivation, others growing in grass, and those pruned and unpruned, have been alike affected. This disease will afford an excellent opportunity for scientists to exhibit their skill in discovering an effectual cure."

The symptoms described by Mr. Thomas are markedly similar to some which, in the recent experience of your Secretary, have characterized the failure of Winter Nelis. Trees show white with bloom, a profusion of young fruit, thereafter a cessation of enlargement, until finally scab or scale, cracking, culminating in the premature fall of a worthless crop. Abundant manure or none, root-pruning, shortening-in of branches or allowance of rampant growth,—it was all the same in the end. Can the Docents explain?

The selection of certain varieties by Mr. Thomas, and his approval so far as it goes, has almost exclusive relation to market purposes. Of Anjou, he say that an "experienced commission merchant remarked that, if this pear only had a fine red cheek, it would be the best of all market varieties." He describes Lawrence as a "late Autumn and early Winter pear, of fine quality, but not equal to the best, is only partially melting. * * * It is a good market variety." Of that deceptive beauty, Clairgeau;—"the pears are large, smooth, and when well ripened and have become soft, they are excellent in quality. * * * Trees fifteen years or more of age uniformly bear pears of good quality, and the variety proves one of the best for market." He adds that the Howell is profitable; but, of the Bartlett, enough cannot be written in praise.

All which may suffice for incentive to individual cultivators. But Pomology exacts something more. And even our venerable associate might do wisely to keep fresh in mind, when prosecuting his favorite science, the grand legend upon the seal of his imperial State. *Excelsior* is not a motto for the average market! Should not Horticulture set truth before the people? Accustom them to the best, and esteem nothing too good for their taste or consumption! Were your Secretary to frame a list for the owners of small homesteads;—a list of pears that he considers indispensable

because of conceded superiority in quality; fecundity; hardiness, or general adaptation to a diversity of climates; he would restrict himself, as follows:—Bartlett, Bosc, Comice, Winter Nelis, Josephine de Malines. For the benefit of the children, whose multiplication, to the shame of New England! is so fashionably discouraged, there should be space devoted to St. Ghislain and Washington; palatable enough to their elders, but of which, ripening and falling from the tree for a whole month, you can at any time see the boys and girls searching the ground in eager appetite for windfalls. The noblest of all late pears, that should grace the Christmas table, has been suffered to fall into oblivion because of a presumed, perhaps real, tendency to blight. But anyone who would like to know how good a pear can be, when in its perfection, has but to grow and ripen Glout Morçeau as it was shown long years since by John C. Ripley, of perennial renown in this Hall.

It should be a subject for earnest congratulation that every effort, whether open or covert, to prevent the Society of American Florists taking a position of direct hostility to the levy of customs-duties upon the importation of Foreign Bulbs, &c., &c., met with such signal failure. If there is aught in the practice or science of politics, whereto American Horticulture should be swift to acknowledge its obligation, it is the fundamental principle of free and unrestricted commerce. The absurd effort to stay the invasion and ravages of *Phylloxera vastatrix*, by an absolute prohibition throughout the Continent of Europe of all traffic in vines or cuttings, succumbed to the sudden and inglorious fate that it merited. The American Hog (the quadruped!) is peremptorily excluded from Germany: but *Trichinæ* multiply and swarm in the intestines of the warrior descendents of Arminius. We invite and, if possible, assimilate: where we cannot cure, we endure. Just reflect, for an instant, upon the floral wealth whereof we should deprive ourselves, if we gave heed to that most virulent of all lunacies that America should surround herself with an insuperable wall! Think of the countless array of brilliant, hardy shrubs that Japan has yielded to our prying

search; of the barrenness that would displace thrift and beauty, were it to be determined that the Chinese and Japanese Flora must be dispensed with once for all! With much that is peculiarly our own, to what forlorn desolation should we condemn ourselves, were we to surrender those fruits of indefatigable toil whereby Fortune and Hogg so lavishly enriched our gardens and lawns; crowning themselves, the while, with perennial laurel. It may be that Hyacinths and Tulips would be of possible propagation in the muck of Peat, or Pine Meadows; or upon the sands of May Street, by Pipeville. But is it not obvious that Drain-Tile yield the better harvest; wherefrom Drapers and Lovells gather where they have strewn, fashioning that which they know how to manufacture; leaving Holland to produce what the experience of centuries and the tireless industry of a plodding race has succeeded in growing to a perfection that is, and must doubtless continue, absolutely unrivalled!

The hoarse croak of the political vulture is that Home Industry must be protected! Is there no industry employed upon the farm and garden? Or is that old-fashioned virtue indicated solely by the factory roll-call? Is there no toil at seed-time and harvest, or is its only emblem the miner's pick-axe? Tax one to extinction that thereby another may live and thrive! In plainer phrase, according to the terse old maxim: rob Peter to pay Paul! For instance, it has been proposed to levy a prohibitory duty upon the importation of Tin-Plate, whereof not a square foot is made in this country! Could it be manufactured at a profit, there is plenty of idle capital that would have been applied to the task, long ago. But, besides the prospect of an assured profit, the lure of a monopoly undisturbed by competition must be the attraction for unemployed money. Possibly you may fancy that Horticulture would not be affected by such legislation, and deem that your Secretary is hard pushed for an illustration of what the bigot or purblind may decry as a partisan argument! Yet,—at a meeting of that most useful organization,—the Western New York Horticultural Society, holden at Rochester, N. Y., in January of the current year, Mr. S. G. Curtice,

during a discussion upon the Canning Industry, published the following statement showing the business of his firm:

Expended for A. D.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Fruit.....	$142,000	$203,000	$236,000
Tin-Plate.....	38,000	43,000	70,500
Sugar.....	10,400	13,000	14,500
Labor.....	36,000	54,500	68,000
	$226,400	$313,500	$389,000

This mind you describes the work and out-put of but a single firm! Leaving out of consideration the oyster business as alien to our pursuits though of kin to our appetites, at what sum shall we duly estimate the value of material essential to the proper working of the innumerable canning-factories throughout the Union? Shall Corn and Tomatoes be doomed to rot while some pampered monopolist and plutocrat in Pennsylvania contrives to fasten still new rivets in the fetters that contract and cramp our Terræculture! Shall our hill-sides be laid waste and our farms abandoned to sterility; until nature supervenes with her beneficent processes restoring and vivifying; for no better reason than that if Massachusetts sets up for herself in open market, selling where she can dearest and buying where she ought cheapest, paying unto Cæsar meanwhile all which he has the conscience to exact; she may arouse hostility among the fair-weather friends who were always notorious for a charity that vaunteth itself in public places, but is only lavish in the seclusion of its own home!

Take the article of Sugar,—an item in the tables of Mr. Curtice and a very palpable factor in the grocery accounts of Yankee housewives. Under the stimulus of excessive duties the exotic cane has been forced to an unnatural growth in an extreme section of our Republic. Shielded by that almost prohibitory Tariff, the Trust steps in and dictates the price at which it will suffer Coffee and Tea to be sweetened, Cranberry Sauce to be made as it ought to be, Fruit to be canned or preserved. The frugal housewife, who has seen the cost of refined sugar almost doubled within the last two years, may pride herself on the merits of a

theory that confronts her with such a condition. It is the same old story,—the spirit that acidulates the tones of our ascetic friends; —of an artificial stimulus whereof the force is impaired by use or repetition, whose application and strength must be continually renewed or augmented, but of which the final result is surely debauch, demoralization, and death.

There was land of old, throughout New England that, when tickled with a hoe laughed with a harvest. There was a time and not so long ago but that your Secretary was an eye-witness to the reckless waste, when the Terræculturists of Illinois threw their manure heaps into the nearest creek rather than be at the trouble of spreading it over their fields! Now,—agents of New Hampshire and Vermont, aye, even of Berkshire in our own Massachusetts, are striving to attract settlers from foreign parts, —Parthians and Armenians, the dwellers at the equator and in the land of the midnight sun, the saintly Swede in especial! that farms allowed to run to waste may once more find occupants and yield taxes! the chief end of civilized man. The alluvial soil of Illinois is not yet exhausted. But the plaint of its tillers is universal and vents no discordant note. It is incentive to reflection among themselves, so far and yet so near, and is fraught with the gravest suggestions to us. The land diminishes in fertility, the foreign market is denied, while the home market fails, and man grows steadily poorer. Writes from Champaign, Illinois, the observant correspondent of that pre-eminent newspaper,—*The Country Gentleman:* * * *

"Their cows and rough stock are scarcely worth 2 cts. per lb., and even 300 lb. fat veal calves are difficult to raise 3½ cts. upon. The corn, oat and hay crops of 1889, for the black soil counties, are scarcely more than two-thirds the average per acre of the last five years, while prices for these and neat cattle are 30, if not 40 or 50 per cent. lower.

"Meanwhile the rate of taxation is rather increasing than diminishing, and there is no reduction in the salaries of public officers."

And most pregnant is the reflection, with which he concludes, if such is the condition of Terræculture

"In counties on the black soil of Illinois, one of the World's most fertile and favorably situated tracts of land, what can be

the state of affairs where the soil is less exuberant and the situation less to be desired!"

Another writer of the same State, from its Rock River region, which was doubtless created to console man for the loss of Eden, after the forfeiture of that primeval garden, says that "milch cows bring $14.00 for common, $30.00 for choice; steers $2.25 to $2.50 per cwt." Yet, like an intelligent, and, what is better, an honest man, not being blinded by partisan prejudice, he admits that "the laws of supply and demand alone can help us." And further on, after referring to the establishment of milk factories, he concludes with a positive assertion that may not accord with the experience of some of our members:

"But, before dairying, or any other branch of farming, come the products of the garden for profit, if vegetables can be sold at almost any price." His conclusion is curious: "Oil-stoves and canned fruits and vegetables ruin the market and revolutionize the kitchen."

The illusion of the so-called Home Market is held out to the terræculturist as an especial lure. When he would sell fruit that should be eaten at home, better for himself and his young family, that no market at all were in existence! When he fosters the abnormal growth of a manufacturing town, with its inevitable concomitants of gregarious lawlessness and vice, the reflection whether he has directed his action as a citizen wisely and well must compel his most serious consideration. The ambition that possesses so many of our towns and cities to try and surpass each other in the mere matter of population should be reckoned a species of insanity. Neither prosperity, nor all the virtues, are exclusive products of the detached grange; nor yet are they monopolized by such aggregations of farmsteads as may suffice to constitute a town. The development from village to city, when it is inevitable, would better be a natural progression; the result of evolution, as it were, rather than of incorporated speculative greed. The Golden Age may have been a myth. New England, in its formative youth, was perhaps harsh and intolerant; subordinating earthly enjoyment to the rare luck of predestination. But there never was a better place to live in,

and, when the appointed time came, to die; until the haste to get rich beyond measure created and upheld the high-pressure factory system.

Travel sometimes opens the eyes and broadens the observation. Our minister to Portugal,* so well known to you in all his Protean shapes, sojourning for the nonce in one of the "effete monarchies," is now of the opinion that,

"The tiller of the soil in America is interested in the tiller of the soil in Europe, and the herdsman of the plains feels that the fountain-head from which his animals have sprung forms an important part of the most cultivated agricultural economy. The lesson the farmer is to learn is spread out over every latitude and is taught by every nationality. The results of experiments and experience in one land may be profitably observed in another; the failures may warn, the success may encourage. Even the manners and customs may be studied with profit; the great opportunies on the one hand and the narrow limitations on the other."

Might not we, Horticulturists, do well to invite a halt? Possibly retrace our steps in their downward tendency! Should we not at least consider if it were not better for Massachusetts; at any rate this grand old Terræcultural County of Worcester; to encourage and foster men and women instead of mules and spinning jennies!

A short while since, this Society felicitated itself, not so much upon the gain of a measurable relief from taxation, as in having secured some equitable exemption from a burden, intolerable because invidious and exacting. In all the Commonwealth there were but two (2) Horticultural Societies. They had been managed with frugality; had applied their savings to the extension of their legitimate operations, and as the direct result of the assiduous devotion of fifty (50) years to the purpose and objects of their existence, the product in Massachusetts of flowers, fruits and vegetables had become what the dullest observation cannot fail to see. If in Faneuil or Quincy markets; or in the detached and diminutive shops that yet remain their inferior substitutes,

* Hon. George B. Loring.

here in Worcester; housekeepers find the first choice fruits of the garden, field or orchard; their good fortune is directly attributable to the Horticultural Societies which, in Boston or Worcester, were compelled to struggle for appreciation; almost for existence. For even their existence in their present degree of affluence and unstinted liberality, would not be of possible assured achievement, were it to be attempted anew, under existing social conditions. A half-century ago, every one took an interest, which they were neither too fastidious nor lazy to manifest, in the infant Societies. Each and all contributed what they had at the time, and strove hard to exhibit more and better the next year. At that period nobody cared if a gelding could be brought to trot a second faster; its utility in propagating its kind being duly estimated. The bicycle had not been invented, and no one could imagine that the order of nature might be reversed, night being transmuted to day, that man should attain the full measure of his stature and more completely develop his likeness to his Maker, by crouching, ape-like, over a trick of mechanism! The purpose of those disinterested men, the founders, was to cause the earth to blossom as the rose, to induce a double return, getting two blades of grass, where before was but one! And, until those Societies, by their savings, were enabled to possess homes of their own, wherein and *whereby* to perform their bounden duty under the laws of the Commonwealth, they were constant recipients of individual and public favor. Ever since they have been singled out with a curious persistence to bear the burden of a discrimination that became, yearly, more invidious and oppressive.

But the relief sought by Horticulture was enacted at last and still later, doled out in grudging and pinched measure. The statutes declare that

"Portions of houses of religious worship appropriated for purposes other than religious worship shall be taxed at the value thereof to the owners of the houses."

Has the treasury of the City of Worcester ever derived a cent from the acute vigilance of its Assessors, applied to the close thrift of those shrewd saints whose God is apparently their belly! and

who found the Lord's House upon a Kitchen! What tribute is rendered unto Cæsar by the devout patrons of those unctuous larders!

Our Halls of Flora, Ceres, and Pomona are reserved for the especial uses of our exhibitions. But the first story of the building,—the shops or store-houses whereon the Society must depend for its very existence; which were constructed that they might yield a revenue to be expended for the purposes expressed in our charter, is now assessed for an amount nearly equal to the sum that was levied before relief was asked from the General Court! The Worcester Agricultural Society bought a tract of land away out in the suburbs. The city has grown and, in its expansion, the forlorn cattle-ground has become surrounded by dwellings and very largely enhanced in value. An offer for it in cash that would have realized a profit of more than a thousand per cent. was once quietly pocketed; a suppression that operated as an effectual rejection. The land itself is leased at hap-hazard, for the noble sport of mercenary base-ball; the thrilling sprint of the human buck; or an exciting struggle by the equine gelding for a supremacy to be perpetuated by his get! All this it would seem is taken as matter of course. Men who have striven, with some measure of success, to extend and improve Worcester, find their work of development arrested by this obstacle—the most complete example of hopeless inertia extant. It returns no revenue to City, County, or State; it possesses, without utilizing, the unearned increment from waste acres that would be better occupied by homesteads; it blocks the path-way and diffusion of settlement; it assumes to discharge duties that are more efficiently performed by ourselves, leaving undone the things that it ought to do; and thus literally and actually cumbering the ground! This Worcester County Horticultural Society of ours proposes a display of Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables on the 5th day of September; and can carry out its design if it will pay to the City and County of Worcester, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, five hundred or more dollars in taxes upon a portion of its estate that is and must ever remain indivisible. The Worcester Agricultural Society, whose earlier and wiser members advised and promoted the formation of this Horticultural Society; to encourage a more

thorough prosecution and study of that comprehensive branch of terræculture; yielding to bad counsel and under stress of mismanagement, also enters the lists and challenges a competition, whose wrong intention is only surpassed by its absurdity. Yet, for such rivalry in part, ill-judged and ungenerous, it draws from the State treasury a bounty of six hundred dollars!

Smitten on both cheeks we have hitherto, in the phrase of the prize-ring, come up smiling after our punishment. But has patience or long-suffering, no limit? Or do we intend to proportion our endurance to the power and will of others to shift their proper load upon our over-burdened and galled shoulders! Grant that Issachar was an ass! What reason does that supply, in this nineteenth century, for exempting from their share of the common liability, the countless Kitchens of Theology, with their holy pots and kettles; or Thirty acres of House-Lots, that a half-dozen gentlemen from Groton, Salem, or Quoddy may, without cost, pose, *im*pose, *re*pose! illustrating by example, the pregnant gospel of "addition, division, silence."

Despite invidious discrimination, we have hitherto, and to a considerable degree, prospered. Our Society is no mendicant; and crawls under no table for mouldy crusts; nor yet for the dogs to lick its sores! It does insist, however, as it has the right to do, that in the award of equal and exact justice under the fundamental law its own case shall no longer be treated as an exception. And if the opinion of the Society should accord with the clear and fixed conviction of its Secretary, there will be no halt, in our struggle for a recognition of our claim to equality before the law, until the Supreme Judicial Court decides that the honest, open ownership of real estate is less entitled to consideration than a furtive investment in Federal bonds; or that a Society especially incorporated to "advance Science" is not a Scientific Society!

All which is respectfully submitted,

by

EDWARD WINSLOW LINCOLN,

Secretary.

Worcester, Worcester County, Mass.,
November 6, A. D. 1889.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Members of the

Worcester County Horticultural Society.

In presenting the customary annual report your Librarian does not presume to make an extended one. He can only give the condition of the Library, an account of how much the members of the Society have availed themselves of its privileges, and the additions in books, pamphlets, and reports during the year just closed. The number of books and pamphlets taken by members is about 200, a somewhat smaller number than last year. A large number of the serial publications has been read and consulted in the Library. A beginning has been made in binding which will be continued; and more shelf-room has been ordered which will soon be in place. Your Librarian is well aware that Horticultural reading is not confined entirely to our Library, as many of our members subcribe annually for one or more Horticultural papers or magazines.

It is very well known however that Horticultural literature is limited, and but few elaborate works devoted solely to Horticultural science can be obtained yearly, and what are published are usually quite expensive, which puts it out of the power of the average reader to purchase, therefore it is evident to all that a Society like this, which can afford to place upon its shelves all, or nearly all of what is worth putting there, in this line for reference and use by its members, is doing an incalculable amount of good.

Your Library Committee has been fortunate in procuring a complete set of the Cottage Gardener (now published as the Journal of Horticulture), at a very low price. The Society has been a subscriber for this work for a long time, but there were several volumes lacking in the series, and by this purchase the missing volumes are made good.

Your Librarian cannot omit to speak in terms of praise, for the very valuable assistance which his associates on the Library Committee have rendered him. He feels and knows that no more faithful and conscientious work could have been done for the Library than that which has been done by his co-laborers. Without further remarks the following list is appended for your more particular examination:

Report of the Commissioner of Education for the year 1886–'87.

Bulletin, No. 3, on Tuberculosis; from the Hatch Experiment Station, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, January, 1889.

Fourth Inaugural Address of Hon. Samuel Winslow, Mayor of Worcester.

Circular of Information, No. 5, 1888; from Bureau of Education, on industrial education in the South; by Rev. A. D. Mayo.

Reports from the Consuls of the United States, May, June, July, August, September, November and December, 1888; January, February, April and May, 1889.

Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Control of the State Agricultural Station, at Amherst, Mass.

Circular, No. 6, 1888; account of the Proceedings of the Department of Superintendence of the National Educational Association, at its Meeting in Washington, Feb. 14-16, 1888.

Second Annual Report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, 1888.

The Road and the Road Side; B. W. Potter.

Curtis Botanical Magazine, Vol. 44, 1888; Society.

Census of Massachusetts, 1885, Vols. 1 and 2, population and social statistics; Hon. H. L. Parker.

Agriculture of Massachusetts; Hon. H. L. Parker.

Census of Massachusetts, 1885; Manufactures, Fisheries and Commerce; Hon. H. L. Parker.

Report of the United States Commissioner of Agriculture, 1887.

Report of the condition of Winter Grain, the condition of farm animals and on freight rates of Transportation Companies; Dept. of Agriculture.

Bulletin, No. 44; on feeding Steers of different breeds; from Experiment Station, Agricultural College, Mich.

Bulletin, No. 45; Subject, Why not plant a Grove; from the Department of Botany and Forestry, Agricultural College, Mich.

Bulletin, No. 43; being the Annual Report of the Director of the Weather Service Department of the Agricultural College, Mich.

First Annual Report of the Hatch Experiment Station of the Mass. Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.; January, 1889.

First Annual Report of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Bulletin for April, 1889, Ex. Station, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Annual Report of the Parks-Commission of the City of Worcester, 1888; Edward Winslow Lincoln.

The Journal of Horticulture, Vols. 17 and 18; Third Series.

Transactions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Part 1; year 1888.

Index to Vol. 29 of the Consuls of the United States.

Circular of Information, No. 4; from Bureau of Education; on Education in South Carolina.

Circular of Information, No. 5; from Bureau of Education; on Education in Georgia.

Circular of Information, No. 6; from Bureau of Education; on Education in Florida.

Circular of Information, No. 7; from Bureau of Education; on Education in Wisconsin.

Bulletin, No. 46; from Ex. Station, Agri. College, Mich.; on Potatoes, Roots, Fertilizers and Oats; March, 1889.

Bulletin, No. 47; from Ex. Station, Agri. College, Mich.; on Silos and Ensilage; April, 1889.

Bulletin, No. 48; from Ex. Station, Agri. College, Mich.; on Potatoes, Kale, Squashes and Tomatoes; April, 1889.

Bulletin, No. 49; from Ex. Station, Agri. College, Mich.; on Chemical Composition of Cornstalks, Hay and Screenings; May, 1889.

Bulletin, No. 50; from Ex. Station, Agri. College, Mich.; on The Grain Plant Louse; June, 1889.

Bulletin for July, 1889; Mass. Ex. Station; on Commercial Fertilizers.

Bulletin for July, 1889; from State Board of Health, Nashville, Tenn.

The Garden's Story, 1889, by Geo. H. Elwanger; Society.

Bulletin, No. 7; from Ex. Station, Cornell University; on the Sprouting of Seeds.

Bulletin, No. 1; U. S. Department of Agriculture; Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy, on the English Sparrow in North America, especially in its relations to Agricul-

ture; prepared under the direction of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Ornithologist, by Walter B. Barrows, Assistant Ornithologist, Washington, D. C., 1889.

The English Flower Garden; Second Ed., 1889; by Wm. Robinson.

Consular Report, No. 106; July, 1889.

Bulletin, No. 9; Ex. Station, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; on Windbreaks in their relations to Fruit growing.

Scientific Papers of Asa Gray; selected by Chas. Sprague Sargent; 2 vols.; 1889.

The Cottage Gardener and the Journal of Horticulture from 1849 to 1886; 74 vols.

Bulletin, No. 6, Oct. 1889; from Hatch Ex. Station, Mass. Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.

The American Florist; Semi-Monthly; 1889; Society.

The American Garden; Monthly; 1889; Society.

Gardener's Chronicle; English Weekly; 1889; Society.

The Garden; English Weekly; 1889; Society.

Gardening Illustrated; English Weekly; 1889; Society.

Garden and Forest; Weekly; 1889; Society.

The Country Gentleman; Weekly; 1889; Society.

The American Agriculturist; Monthly; 1889; Society.

The Agricultural Gazette; English Weekly; 1889; Society.

Vick's Monthly Magazine; Society.

The Massachusetts Ploughman.

Popular Gardening; Society.

The Pinetum Britannicum, a descriptive account of hardy coniferous trees, cultivated in Great Britain; three volumes; London and Edinburg, published by Peter Lawson & Son; Society.

Revue Horticole; Paris; 1888; Society.

Catalogues received, 1889: Landreth's Vegetable and Seed, Philadelphia, Pa.; Hooper & Co., Seeds, London, Eng.; V. H. Hallock & Son, Queens, N. Y.; R. & J. Farquhar & Co., Seeds, Plants and Tools, Boston, Mass.; Peter Henderson & Co., New York, N. Y.; Hovey & Co., Boston; W. W. Rawson & Co., Vegetable and Flower Seeds, 34 South Market street, Boston, Mass.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES E. BROOKS,
Librarian.

Hall of Flora,
November 6, 1889.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

CHARLES E. BROOKS IN ACCOUNT WITH THE WORCESTER COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

1888.				
Nov. 1.	To cash on hand	$2,863	62	
	To cash received for rent of stores	3,800	00	
	To cash received at Chrysanthemum Exhibition	64	55	
	To cash received at Rose Show	40	80	
	To cash received from new members	10	00	
	To cash received from rent of hall	2,485	69	
	Estate of Phylonzo Brown	476	10	
	Total			$9,740 76

CR.

By cash paid Premium Awards, 1888	$1,734	54	
By cash paid judges of exhibits	156	00	
By cash paid Mechanics Savings Bank	1,500	00	
By cash paid Mechanics' Savings Bank, interest	62	50	
By cash paid Worcester Gas Light Company	218	10	

By cash paid Chas. Hamilton, printing	229 56
By cash paid City of Worcester, tax	512 00
By cash paid City of Worcester, water	6 29
By cash paid for books and papers	225 14
By cash paid for insurance	150 00
By cash paid J. S. Perkins (Hall Ceres)	86 21
By cash paid F. W. Wellington & Co., coal	59 50
By cash paid F. M. Marble	50 00
By cash paid O. S. Kendall & Co.	21 78
By cash paid for advertising	18 00
By cash paid A. E. Davis, photos	15 00
By cash paid Geo. W. Barton, repairing roof	14 01
By cash paid Thomas B. Foss, repairing roof	4 24
By cash paid Arba Pierce, evergreen	11 70
By cash paid B. C. Jaques, repairing doors	8 90
By cash paid Safe Deposit Company	10 00
By cash paid Putnam & Davis, stationery	10 80
By cash paid J. Van Wormer & Co., grates	3 60
By cash paid Clark, Sawyer & Co., shades	6 75
By cash paid A. F. Ballou, varnishing doors	8 98
By cash paid salaries	1,400 00

By cash paid extra labor and sundry small bills.....	255 90	
Total	$6,779 50	
Balance on hand.....	2,961 26	
Total		$9,740 76

November 16, 1888. The treasurer received from the executors of the estate of Francis H. Dewey, a check for $1,000, which has been placed on interest in the Mechanics Savings Bank to be known as the " Francis H. Dewey Fund," the interest alone to be used in the purchase of books for the library, according to the terms of the bequest.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES E. BROOKS,
Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO THE SESSION OF THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, AT OCALA, FLORIDA.

To the Members of the
Worcester County Horticultural Society.

Through the courtesy of this Society, as your accredited delegate to the American Pomological Society, which held its 22d biennial session at Ocala, Florida, the 20th, 21st and 22d of February, 1889, I beg leave to make the following report:

In pursuance of an invitation to meet with the Florida Horticultural Society, and the Florida International and Semi-Tropical Exposition, at Ocala, Merriam County, members of the American Pomological Society to the number of ninety, from twenty States and Territories, and the Dominion of Canada, reported at that place, and were not only most cordially received by the Florida Horticultural Society, by His Excellency Governor Fleming (who not being able to be present transmitted his address by wire), the mayor of Ocala, and President Wilson of the Semi-Tropical Exposition, to their hospitalities, but every courtesy was shown us that could be expected to make our stay with them pleasant, to see the products of the State, as shown by them, and learn the manner of their cultivation.

Wednesday, February 20th, the business meeting was held at Opera Hall at two o'clock, to hear the address of the President, receive the credentials of members, and choose the officers of the society. After listening to the able address of President Berkmans, the following officers were chosen:

President, J. P. Berkmans, of Macon, Ga.
First Vice-President, T. T. Lyon, of Michigan.
Treasurer, Benjamin G. Smith, of Massachusetts.
Secretary, A. A. Crozier, of Iowa.

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

As the meeting was held at this season of the year, six months earlier than usual, for the purpose of seeing and learning what our country could do in producing tropical fruits, we were now to be introduced in the realm of the "Orange Queen," and to her tropical home, with all her retinue in the line of the citrus family.

In the hall of exhibition we found her in regal state and undisputed throne. We found with her, as with the peach, apple and pear that improvements are continually going on in quality, flavor and form. The orange will soon be shipped to our market with special names, such as "Homosassa Majorica," "Early Oblong," "Sweet Seville," "Maltese Blood," "Noblesse," "Parson's Navel," and last but not least, "Washington Riverside," and many other names of less note. These names will be put upon the parcels of boxes instead of the shippers or growers alone. Every means were granted us to test the quality of the different kinds, until some of us were obliged to succumb and cry enough. When you take into consideration the hundred different kinds, more or less, and perhaps as many friends of each, you can form some idea of the herculean task we went through (pleasant though). They have certain rules for testing the merits or quality of each variety, with a scale of ten points of merits; an orange loses one point for a peel or skin that is more than one-eighth of an inch thick; if it is three-sixteenths of an inch thick, two points; four seeds, or more, one point; too much acid, one or more points; too sweet, one point. Most of the oranges we have here would not rate more than six or seven points.

It is hardly fifteen years since this industry acquired prominence. There were but a few hundred small groves twenty years since, and now probably there are more than ten thousand. The commercial advantage to railroad interests is vast; while to fill one car it would take twenty-five acres of cotton, one acre of oranges would fill the same; or twenty-five acres would load a train of twenty-five or thirty cars.

Here allow me to make an extract from a paper read before this meeting, on sweet oranges, by E. H. Hart of Federal Point, Fla.

He says: "If we estimate the crop of Florida at present at three million boxes, it requires ten thousand car loads of 300 boxes to the car to move the crop; and calculating the average freight at sixty-six cents per box, the crop pays the railways two million for freight alone. The value of box stuff used would be $390,000; the nails $30,000: the paper for wraps $120,000; labor in gathering and packing $600,000; thus making an output of one million one hundred and forty thousand dollars for simply preparing the fruit for market."

Next comes the lemon crop, which is in its infancy, but which bids fair to attain second place and rise to full grown commercial importance. On this fruit I would refer you to a paper read before this meeting by H. S. Kedney of Winter Park, to be found in the "Florida Dispatch," the "Farmer's Fruit Grower," Thursday, Feb. 28th, 1889, or the Transactions of the American Pomological Society, when published.

As we continued our search through the hall of the Florida Horticultural Society, we found that there were many members of the citrus family in the schedule. The display was enchanting. The orange was shown in pyramids, triangles and all manner of forms on the tables and walls of the hall, intermixed with all the fruits and flowers and other productions of this tropical peninsula of our great country. First among these we will mention the pomelo (or grape fruit), because it is so nearly identified with the orange. As an article of commerce it has conquered a market of its own. It is very productive; the tree looks very much like the orange; in an orange grove it would hardly be picked out from an orange tree by a casual observer. It will sustain an enormous weight on its branches—from ten to fifteen hundred pounds to the tree of twenty years growth.

Next comes the Guava: As a fruit for jelly it bids fair to fill the place now occupied by an imported article.

The Kaki, or Japan Persimmon is producing much interest with fruit growers, but as it was not the season with it no fruit was seen, but the trees were shown to us, with great hope for the future.

The Loquat, a Japan plum or Medlar: We were shown this fruit upon the trees that were very large, and vigorous bearers; I should judge ten bushels to the tree. This fruit will soon be in the market. This will be rather out of season, *a plum in the spring.*

The Strawberry also has a natural place in her soil. This fruit was shown ripe in boxes and also on vines in the semi-tropical building. One thing in favor of the strawberry here is its length of season, which is nearly four months. The berries are so long in maturing that the flesh is harder and therefore more dense, and bears transporation better. They come from Florida, fifteen hundred miles, in better condition than from New Jersey, two hundred miles from market.

The Pine Apple to quite an extent is grown here of very fine flavor and large size. We saw the plants setting their fruit. They are propagated by slips mostly. The pine apple is one of the most important fruits grown in Florida.

The Banana is found in the southern portion of the State, where it bids fair to compete with, or rival, some of the imported fruit.

The Cocoanut is found in the region of the banana. The three last named to be successfully grown must be below the frost line.

A Peach has been found indigenous to the climate, bearing the queer cognomen, "*Peento.*" It is doing wonders. Mr. George L. Tabor claims to have shipped four hundred bushels in one season. It is flat in shape, high color and when fully ripe is very good. I saw some very fine trees of this variety full of peaches the size of pullet's eggs.

Since writing the foregoing, Miss Bess Huestis, the owner of these trees that I describe here, has received for seven bushels of them $100.

The Le Conte pear is also grown here. The tree is the most thrifty-growing of any pear tree yet found. Young trees will grow from eight to ten feet in height in one season. I could learn nothing of its fruitfulness, nor praise of its quality for table fruit.

The Fig, Olive, Date, Almond and many other tropical fruits are grown here.

The Grape culture here is but in its first beginning. They have a native called "Scuppernong," which reaches its southern line only in tropical portions of the State, and its value as a wine producing grape is fully recognized. This industry has already passed out of the domestic stage and attained a commercial importance which seems assured. From what I saw and heard I have no doubt but foreign grapes can be grown successfully, and such greenhouse grapes as "Black Hamburg" and the "Frontignan." As we have now discussed the more important fruits that grow on the peninsula we will now relate as well as we can how they appeared to us in orchard and grove.

As tropical fruits were to be considered more fully as shown *here*, very little has been said concerning fruits grown in the Middle and Northern States, and that will account for the dearth of matter concerning them in this report. The delegates were given free passes on the railroads all over the State, for ten days to be made up in parties of fifteen or twenty members, with some railroad officials accompanying them.

The society held eight sessions: three on Wednesday, three on Thursday and two on Friday. The time was largely taken up by the consideration of the papers announced in the programme.

The society suggested, in the form of a resolution, that the agricultural experimental stations throughout the Union, should give special attention to the raising of seedling fruits, upon the most approved and scientific principles, for dissemination in their respective localities; and that originators of new varieties of fruits be requested to send specimens of their plants to the agricultural experimental stations, to be tested for their adaptation to the localities wherein the stations are located, and that the results of such tests be published in the station reports.

The interest in the exhibit centered in the award of the "Wilder" medals, which are only given where exceptional merit is shown. Silver "Wilder" medals were awarded to Lake county, Shipper's Union, Marion county, Sumter county, Lee

county, Rev. Lyman Phelps, Mr. E. H. Hart and Mr. Dudley W. Adams.

Gold "Wilder" medals were awarded Citrus county, Polk and Volusia counties, Mayor O. P. Rooks and Mr. E. S. Hubbard.

The place of the next meeting was discussed. Chicago seemed to be the choice of the members present, but the matter was left to the executive committee.

Friday the 22d, at one o'clock, the Pomological Society brought their meeting to a close, and by invitation of Mr. Harris at two o'clock we all took the cars to visit his grove situated in Citra, about twenty miles north of Ocala. This is the largest grove in the State. It entitles the owner to the name of "Orange King." It contains one hundred and ninety acres, and puts upon the market this year fifty-three thousand boxes, which would fill one hundred and seventy-six cars. It was a sight to behold. Five acres were left unpicked, I suppose purposely, for *the Pomological fellows.* It was said to Peter of old, "rise, kill and eat;" to us it was said, "pick and eat," and we obeyed the command without a murmur. Bishop Hoyt's grove of one hundred and fifty acres is separated from this by a railroad. These groves are about twenty years old, say twenty to thirty feet high, on hommock land; they have required no fertilizer, or very little; clean culture prevails. We found in this grove a "Scuppernong" grape vine, which measured fifteen inches in diameter. It grew upon a very large tree, sixty feet before you reached a limb. Some one remarked, which supports, the tree or vine?

The next day we spent the morning at Silver Springs, which is a wonderful sight; a river formed by one opening of springs welling such a wonderful quantity of water, so large and deep that large vessels and steamboats could come close to the banks at the head of the spring, and sail nine miles into the Ocklawaha river, and so clear that at a depth of forty feet a ten cent piece could be seen. This delightful tour was continued through most of the orange growing belt of the State, with this conclusion, that the peninsula of Florida is well adapted for growing of citrus fruits.

Another industry was brought to our notice, that of sugar. This is looked upon so favorably that a company has been

formed, who have bought a million acres in Osceola, Polk and Desoto counties, and have a thousand acres in sugar cane this year. The president of the company, who had been engaged in the sugar planting in Louisiana, claimed that the sugar cane raised in Florida was the better of the two. He reports forty tons to the acre, one hundred and eighty pounds to the ton.

For the first time in the history of the American Pomological Society, it has turned aside from its former custom of holding its sessions in September, to meet the wants of the Middle and Northern States, to join with an extreme Southern State, and be introduced to her pomological claims upon this organization. What she has shown in her infancy argues well for her future.

Which is respectfully submitted.

F. M. MARBLE.